Week 3: Walking in the Rabbi’s Footstep – “A Countercultural Community”

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Romans 12:2**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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**Day 2: Matthew 22:16-21**

They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial taxto Caesar or not?”

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

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**Day 3: 1 John 2:6**

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

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**Day 4: Zachariah 4:6**

So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.

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**Day 5: Daniel 2:8**

Then the king answered, “I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided:

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Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 22:16-21. What was the significance of Jesus’ response about paying tribute to Caesar? How does this apply to our lives today?

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2.  Read 1 John 2:6. What are some practical ways we can walk as Jesus walked in today’s culture?

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3. How do we see Philip’s example of faithfulness in the way he navigated the Agora? What lessons can we learn from his decision not to offer incense? What are some modern-day equivalents of the Agora where we are pressured to conform? How should we respond?

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4. How did Nebuchadnezzar try to change the identity of Daniel and his friends? What are some ways the world tries to redefine our identity today? How does knowing our identity in Christ give us the strength to stand firm in our beliefs?

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5. Have you ever encountered a situation like Pastor Bob and the street preacher example? How can we share truth without pushing people away? What’s the difference between making a point and making a difference? How do we ensure that our approach to sharing truth is filled with love?

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6. What does it mean to “look like our Rabbi” in our daily interactions? How can we become more like Jesus?

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7. In what areas of your life do you feel the most pressure to conform to the world? How can you resist that pressure? What is one specific action you can take this week to stand strong in your faith while also showing love to those around you?

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