What's Happening in Sunday School?

Who is in charge? With so many different authorities claiming to have control, where are God's people supposed to turn? The theme for today's lesson is God's absolute authority.

In the Old Testament Lesson we see where all earthly authorities derive their power and that is ultimately from God. He puts people in power to serve his purposes just like with Cyrus. God wants Cyrus to understand that He is the one who has brought him into power and what that means he should do.

In the Gospel we are presented with a case where the earthly ruler does not recognize the authority of God. The Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus into denying God's authority, which would make people stop believing his teaching, or denying Roman authority, which would put him in trouble with the Roman officials. Jesus gives an answer that avoids their trap and reveals God's truth. Earthly authorities have temporary control over us. They can make demands on our daily lives in the areas where they have their temporary control, but they are not ultimately in charge. Nothing they can require is more important than remembering that God is ultimately in control and His demands should not be seen as any less important. God is in charge, before any other authority existed and after all other authorities have faded away.

Digging Deeper

- What would you do if the government said you couldn't worship Jesus?
- Find a country where it is illegal to be a Christian.
- Talk about how hard it would be to risk your life or freedom to be faithful to God.

Proper 24 – Year A

FUN PAGE



"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. And give to God what belongs to God."

Image from: http://img.oncoloring.com/a-silver-coin-of-ancient-_49eed450ec7f6-p.gif