

Scripture and Empire Study - 20s/30s

Saint Mark's Cathedral - SUMMER 2022

Part 1: Being Christian in the Empire

In the Episcopal Church, we inherit several imperial legacies, including the roles of the Anglican church in the British Empire and ongoing U.S. settler colonialism. The first meeting of the Scripture and Empire study series explores how followers of Jesus should navigate their relationship with imperial states. Participants are invited to read the following in advance:

- [Matthew 22:15-22](#)
- [Romans 13:1-7](#)
- ["Is 'Render unto Caesar' really about taxes?"](#)
- ["What does 'Render Unto Caesar' Mean?"](#)
- ["Context Is Key to Interpreting Romans 13:1-7"](#)

Additional Resources:

- [Jesus on Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder](#) - Richard Horsley
- [Beyond The Spirit of Empire \(Reclaiming Liberation Theology\)](#) - Nestor Miguez
- [Render Unto Caesar: The Struggle Over Christ and Culture in the New Testament](#) - John Dominic Crossan
- [God & Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now](#) - John Dominic Crossan
- [Render Unto Caesar: John Dominic Crossan](#) - a podcast from Things Not Seen

Part 2: Connections to The Episcopal Church

Many seekers from a wide variety of faith traditions (and none) are drawn to an Episcopal Church that resonates with the Gospel's counter-cultural call to resist the priorities of empire. And yet, so much of the Episcopal Church's history *and* present reality is aligned with the political and cultural establishment. How do we extricate the gifts of the Anglican spiritual tradition from the cultural baggage and sinful impulses of power and prestige?

- [Isaiah 1:10-17](#)
- [Isaiah 6:1-8](#)
- [Acts 10:34-48](#)
- [Patheos Article - Exploration and Conquest](#)
- [Q&A on TEC Indigenous Boarding Schools](#)
- [Presiding Bishop Statement on Indigenous Boarding Schools](#)

Extra Reading

- [The Church of Empire - The Church Cracked Open Ch. 3](#)
- [TEC Indigenous Ministries Response to TEC Statement on Boarding Schools](#)

Part 3: What Does this Mean and the Fourth of July - What Does this Mean

- [Exodus 33:1-2](#)

- [Matthew 28:16-20](#)
- [Pagans in the Promised Land Review](#)
- [The Doctrine of Discovery and Watershed Conquest](#)
- [The Myth of White Christian Innocence](#)

Extra Reading

Frederick Douglass' speech on the 4th of July: [What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?](#)