

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



## Weekly Sermon Series

### **Restoration** **Restoring Our Worldview: It's All Sacred** **Isaiah 45:1–7; Matthew 22:15–22**

As Christians we have a tendency to separate church and state, public places and religious places, secular activities and spiritual activities. Yet God is Lord of all. All skills and talents of humanity are gifts of God to the world. Jesus wants to bring all people and things to God and glorify God through all artisans, craftmakers, and leaders. Yet sin and the perpetrators of evil come into all phases of life. Corruption happens—among leaders, among craftsmen, among communities, among families.

- Are you able to see God working in leadership in the world?
- What names of world politicians come to mind and what evidence do you see of God?
- Locally, what evidences do you see of God's work?
- Are you willing to take a role in glorifying God where you live? How?

Stories come to mind of teenagers around the flagpole gathering friends to pray for their school, their teachers, and their fellow students. I've heard of school children inviting classmates to Sunday school. On TV, I've seen coaches acknowledging God as their resource and giver of skills to play the game. When I was a young teen in Confirmation, I was concerned about two unchurched young men with whom I talked often. One was a country school mate and one a

friend that I saw at weekend dances. I told them about my Confirmation class and invited them to come along. They both came and were confirmed. But in their adult life they fell away from Christian living. I would hope they have since remembered their learning and allowed God to restore them.

In the Old Testament text, God predicted, through the prophecy of Isaiah, that Cyrus, a pagan leader, would be used to work God's plan and glory of restoration. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus acknowledges that Caesar has a place in God's world, and he calls us to a deeper understanding of sacred and secular. Lord, help us bring you and your glory into all aspects of our daily life. Give us understanding and gratitude for your all-encompassing power. Help us be a part of your kingdom on earth and its spread throughout the world. Make us restorers of your creation. Amen.

-- Week of October 19, 2008