"When Should Christians Rebel Against the Government?"
Matthew 12:1-14   4/26/2020

Big Idea- This topic has been a debate for centuries in church history and among theologians over the last 2000 years. The goal for us today in our current Covid19 situation is to look at Scripture in a way that is balanced and humble. There is a principle in Judaism known as *Pikuach Nefesh* which Jesus affirmed that will help us develop a balanced Biblical approach to navigating these challenges before us. Additionally, these principles apply as we continue to move toward the end time prophetic scenario of evil getting worse (2 Tim 3:1-7) and a world government with an anti-Christian stance (Revelation 13:1-18).

Hebrews 10:25 versus Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17?

The Bible teaches an order of priority in following God's commandments:
Do you have any Jews in your house?   Rahab- Joshua 2, Heb 11:31; Jam 2:25
   1) **Matt 22:34-40 – "Greatest commandments" versus lesser**
   2) **Matt 23:23 - "… weightier matters of the law" versus lesser**
   3) **Matt 5:19- "least of these commandments" versus greater**
   4) *Pikuach Nefesh*- **"preserve life" or livelihood?**

LESSON 1- Jesus taught that there is an order of priority in God's <u>LAW</u>
         (Sabbath laws- Exodus 20:8-11; 31:14-16; 35:1-3; Num 15:32-36)

   A. This precedence of <u>life</u> was illustrated in the life of <u>DAVID</u>
      (Priest's Bread only- Lev 24:1-9; 1 Samuel 21:1-6; Luke 6:1-5; Mark 2:23-28)

   B. The precedence of ministry work over other less laws of the <u>SABBATH</u>
      (Acts 5:27-29; Num 28:9-10; Circumcision- Lev 12:3; John 7:19-24)

   C. The precedence of human life versus animal life is common <u>SENSE!</u>
      (Matthew 12:9-14; If this is true of physical healing how spiritual?)

Going   *God wants us to have a general disposition of submission to the*
Deeper *government, but also to have wisdom in drawing the line at times.*

   1) *Chinese government and Hebrews 10:25*
   2) *Ours is a temporary restraint. If it changes, we need to re-evaluate*
   3) *Ours is not a RELIGIOUS targeting of Christians*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples