

Week of October 18, 2020

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.

¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"

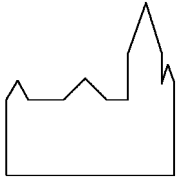
¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?"

¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"

²¹ They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. If you could ask a current leader (political, corporate, etc.) one question, whom would you choose to ask and what would the question be?
- B. Have you ever entered an alliance or partnership with someone you didn't like?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What do you think is the purpose of the flattery in verse 16?
2. In verse 18, Jesus is unusually aggressive in his response. Why do you think that is?
3.
 - a. What do you believe a Christian's duty is to secular society and its laws?
 - b. When should a Christian break the law?
 - c. Have you ever wrestled with a situation where you considered breaking the law as a matter of faith?
4. There are Christian traditions – notably monastic orders such as certain monks and nuns – where every day is devoted to God and no possessions are personally owned. The Protestant tradition largely rejected these as valid practices. What do you think of monasticism and should there be room for it in Protestantism?
5. How often do you pray? How often do you think of God's involvement in your life? Is there a part of your life where you have rarely turned to God?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which you can turn to God more frequently during your life.