

Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you

trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹ “Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

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

Sermon for October 22, 2023: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

KNOW ... God and his Word.

- Two unlikely groups join together to trap Jesus. Research and describe these groups: who they are, their beliefs and standing in the community. Why did they want to trap Jesus? What threat, real or perceived, did they believe he posed to them?
- Describe the trap they fashioned for Jesus. What did these groups hope to accomplish? In what ways would this type of trap have been effective politically and socially?
- Jesus asked to see the coin used for paying taxes. Upon seeing it, he responds in verse 20 with “Who’s image is this? And whose inscription?”

Why do you think Jesus asked those questions? What does Caesar’s image and the inscription on Rome’s coin (*gleaned from historic references and translated as*), “Tiberius Caesar, son of the Divine August,” suggest about this leader and his expectations for those who lived in his kingdom?

- What did Jesus mean by his answer in verse 21? What should we give to God, the one whose image we bear?

- What stood out to you in this passage, from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts or questions you may have.

ACT ... *responding to & applying what we know.*

- What does loyalty, fidelity or giving our allegiance to something/someone look like? Name what we are tempted to be loyal, faithful or give our allegiance to. Why are these things appealing?
- Is it possible to be loyal, faithful or give our allegiance to something without realizing it? Why or why not?
- Pastor Mark said, "The question for followers of Jesus is firstly, 'What is my responsibility to Christ?'" So, what is our responsibility to Christ?

BE ... *living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.*

Loyalty, fidelity, allegiance — what does that look like in the Christian's life?

Make time this week to CONSIDER this question and write out your conclusions.

TAKE INVENTORY of your life:

- Am I wholehearted fulfilling my responsibility to Christ?
- Have I allowed or am I allowing loyalty, fidelity or allegiance to someone or something other than Christ to creep in?

ASK the Holy Spirit to point out in your life any disloyalties, unfaithfulness or allegiances with anything or anyone other than Christ, any patterns of thought or behavior that need to change. REPENT and CONFESS your loyalty, fidelity and allegiance to Christ alone.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

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