

Bringing it Home For Sunday, October 18, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



In today's Bible story, someone asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Romans. The Romans had conquered the whole area, and they wanted money from the people they had conquered.

This was a trick question. If Jesus said not to pay taxes, the Romans would arrest him. If he said the people should pay taxes, it would seem like he supported the occupiers.

But Jesus answered with a question. "Whose image is on the coin?" Of course it was the Emperor's image. So Jesus said, give to the Emperor the things that are his, and to God the things that God's.

Let's think about that. If the Emperor's image on a coin means it belongs to him -- like your name on your backpack means it belongs to you -- how can we tell what belongs to God? It would have to be something with God's image, right?

Well, way back at the beginning of the Bible, the Bible tells us that God made human beings in God's own image. That means that you and I, today, are made in God's image. So were the people Jesus was talking with.

So the coin with the Emperor's image belonged to him, and all the people, made in God's image, belonged to God. And so do we.

Let's pray. Dear God, thank you for making us in your image, and marking us as your own. Help us to remember that you watch over us and protect us as your very own people. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 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. Tell us, then,

what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 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." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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