

Matthew 22:15-22 (MSG)

That's when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece.

"This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?"

They said, "Caesar."

"Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his."

The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

For Reflection and Prayer:

What did you hear as you listened to the text? Did a word or phrase stand out in particular? Repeat it to yourself, savoring the word(s).

Meditate on this word, phrase or picture. Notice what speaks to your heart. Tend to that.

Have a conversation with God about what you are noticing. You might journal or draw your thoughts and feelings and how you sense God responding to you.

Savor any consoling words or pictures God gives you. Simply rest in God's presence.