

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 22:15-21

'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

Reflection

The Pharisees are trying to catch Jesus out with a tricky question, but Jesus turns it into something much bigger: what belongs to God? The coin carries Caesar's image, but we carry God's image. That means our whole lives – our time, choices, relationships and actions – can be offered back to God. For us, this isn't about separating faith from everyday life. We show what belongs to God through the way we treat people, especially those who are struggling or overlooked. Our faith should make a difference in what we actually do.

Materials Needed

A bunch of random everyday items

Activity

Place a range of everyday objects in the middle of the group for example: a phone, £1 coin, school book, football, headphones, food, keys etc. Give the group a few minutes to choose an object and discuss:

"If this is part of my everyday life, what could it look like to give this back to God?"

For example, a phone could mean using it to encourage someone rather than exclude them; time could mean making space for someone who is lonely; money could mean giving to someone in need. Then bring the group back to the Gospel: the coin carried Caesar's image, but we carry God's image. So what does it mean for our everyday lives to show that we belong to God?

Call to Action

Choose one part of your everyday life that you could use differently this week to reflect God's love to someone else.

