29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 22:15-21
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.”

Some things to think about...
- Why are rules important? Can you think of any rules at school that you should follow?
- How do we know what the right thing to do is? Do we always need a rulebook or should we ask, “Is this action led by love?”
- What things belong to God? How can we look after these things?

Activity
- Using a coin cutout, colour in the heart on one side and write a kind message on the back. Give them to someone at school, church or in your community.
- The Bible tells us we should follow the laws of the land or the rules set by the government for the benefit of the rest of our community. It also reminds us that all things are God’s, as the creator of heaven and Earth, and that we need to respect what is His, including animals, people and the environment.

Teacher’s notes
The Pharisees (High Priests) often tried to catch Jesus out because they were by challenged by his attitude of putting love at the centre rather than rules. He gave his followers a new commandment: “Love one another”. In this passage Jesus shows wisdom in respecting the laws while still honouring God.

Christians believe we are made in the image and likeness of God, so we belong to Him. In this way, we are called to respect and look after each other.

Notes:

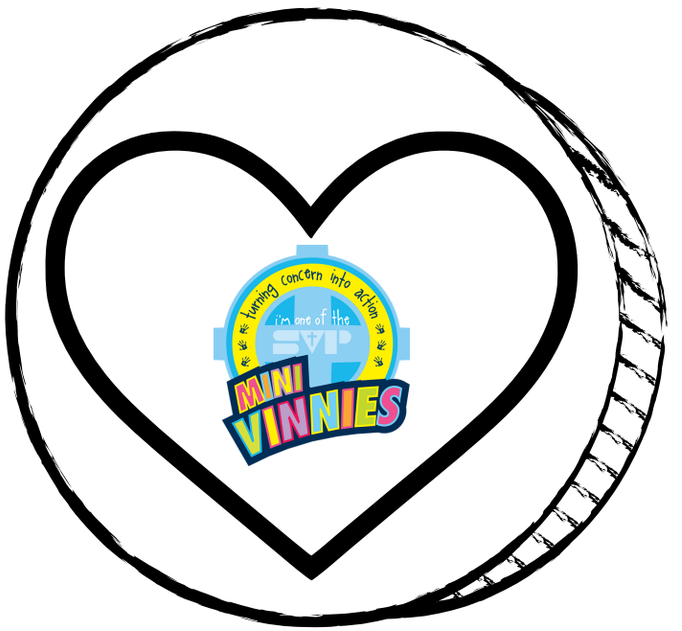

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