

FJT – October 13, 2020

1. Check in with each other and review last week's message – any insights or questions lingering?
2. Background of this passage

Bite-by-bite:

3. Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

-What is the purpose of entrapping Jesus? When did the Pharisees shift from learning from Jesus to seeking to “trap” him?

¹⁶So 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.

-Who are the Herodians? Why do they start with flattery?

¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”

-What are the implications of this question? How can it be a “trick”?

¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?

-How do you think the Pharisees felt begin called “hypocrites” – and what does that word literally mean?

¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.

-What is the history of the denarius? How were coins used in Jesus' day?

²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?”

-What was Jesus doing by making his lesson concrete?

²¹They 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.”

-Talk about the Greek word translated “give” or “render”

-What do you give to God: Daily? Weekly? Yearly?

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

-Pharisees that are amazed – what does this accomplish?

4. How might our lives be changed if we understood ownership differently?
5. What is this scripture inviting you to do today?