

the Take Home 01.11.15

Today's Scripture Passage: Luke 20:20-26

²⁰ Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. ²¹ So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. ²² Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

²³ He saw through their duplicity and said to them, ²⁴ "Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

²⁵ He said to them, "Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²⁶ They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

For Reflection & Discussion

"Here Jesus' opponents seek to force Him to choose between revolution – which would get Him in trouble with Rome – and accommodation to the Romans – which they suppose He opposes.

"They pit the obligations of peace with Rome against the nationalistic, messianic fervor that they assume Jesus has generated [not least by His recent entry into Jerusalem on the donkey]."

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary, New Testament*

- If the image of Caesar on the Roman coin conveys the message of the emperor's claim to what belonged to him as the representative of Roman political authority and military might, what does God's image and likeness impressed upon the man and woman He created signify?
- What claim does God have upon those whom He fashioned with His image impressed into their very being?

For Further Reading

Romans 13:6-7

Psalm 2

Genesis 1:26-27

Matthew 22:37-40

Micah 6:8