

Dear Families:

In class today, we read a portion of the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus is being challenged by the scribes and Pharisees. While Jesus was preaching in the temple, the Pharisees thought of a plan to get Jesus in trouble. They asked Jesus, “Are we Jews to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

At this time, Rome ruled much of the known civilized world, including the Jewish lands in the Middle East. The Roman emperor was to be worshipped like a god by the people over which he ruled. It is against God’s law to worship any other gods but Him. If Jesus said yes, the Pharisees could accuse him of worshipping Caesar, and the common people would be angry that Jesus wasn’t there to deliver them from Rome but seemed to submit to them. If Jesus said no, the Romans would have him arrested for speaking against the emperor.

Jesus once again turns it back onto the Pharisees and the church leaders. He asked for a coin to be brought and asked them to tell Him whose picture was on it. The church leaders answered, “It is Caesar.” Jesus then told them to give Caesar what is Caesar’s, and give to God what is God’s. The tricksters had nothing more to say!

We are to give God what is God’s. What would that be? Well, we can argue that EVERYTHING belongs to God. He has given us everything, and we should give back to Him in return. God wants us to love Him and to love others. We can give what God has given us to serve Him. This doesn’t have to be money! You have a healthy body- use it to do work for others. You have a smart mind- use it to help others. You have some time- use it to help others. God will be pleased with your offerings, no matter what. Give as much as you can!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan

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