October 15, 2020

# **Matthew 22:15-22**

### Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

**15**Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. **16**They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. **17**Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2022:15-22&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23890a)] to Caesar or not?”

**18**But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? **19**Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, **20**and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

**21**“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

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

**OPEN:**

1. Who can guess how many times the word or numeral “one” is printed on a one dollar bill?

**DIG:**

1. How would the crowd respond if Jesus said simply “Pay Caesar”?
   1. Why?
   2. How would the ruling government respond if Jesus said “Don’t pay”?
2. What does Jesus mean by his answer (v.21)?
   1. What is it that should be given to God?
   2. What is he teaching about the relationship of Church and State?
   3. Which obligation is primary? Why?

**REFLECT:**

1. What belongs to Caesar in your life?
   1. To God?
2. How well are you giving to each?