

# Short item - Give unto God

- Here's a coin **V**
  - It's a replica of a very old coin
  - It's a denarius - it means "containing ten"
  - The main side of the coin portrayed the ruling emperor's face (in this case Caesar Augustus).
  - On the reverse was frequently a Roman Deity
  - This was done to associate the emperor with an attribute of that deity.
- It's the same one Jesus used to answer the Pharisees and Herodians when they asked Him whether they should pay taxes to Ceasar or not.
  - You see it has Caesar's head on it.  
Jesus replied  
"Whose is this image and superscription?"  
They replied  
"Caesar's"  
He replies  
"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."
- You may think,  
*"That's that -  
pay your taxes,  
and give God respect.*
  - *Go to church. Read the Bible now and then - Job done!"*

But you'd be wrong

- You see,  
What is the implication of what Jesus is saying here?
- Christ is making a very apt metaphor
- He's likening a human soul to a coin
  - He does this in other places as well.
- You see a coin has value
  - so does a soul.
- A coin also often contains an image upon it.
  - The image of the one who gives the coin value - the true owner.
  - In this case Caesar- who required it to be paid to him.
  - Not doing this would be wrong, by the law of the land.

- So Jesus says pay your taxes to Caesar.
- But then He says - give to God what is His.
  - Why does he say that?
- You see we have an image stamped upon us as well.
  - **Q.** Whose is it?
    - A. God's
- The Bible says that we are made in God's image.
  - What does that mean?
    - Well, an image is like a reflection in a mirror.
    - It's exactly like the real thing.
      - It has some of the same features.
      - Same face, eyes, mouth, arms, legs.
    - But it is also nothing like the real thing
      - It's just light bouncing off of a shiny surface.
- Same with us- We have:
  - Being like God
  - We are personal
  - We are self conscious
  - We can know
  - And reason
  - We can create
  - And love
  - We're moral
- But we're nothing like Him really
  - He is a pure Spirit
  - He's Infinite
    - In time and space
    - Knowledge and power
  - He is unchangeable
- So, in the same way the image on the coin isn't the person -
  - but it does share some of his attributes in a small way
  - Because of that, it has value
- **Q.** But what's the inescapable conclusion from this similitude that Jesus makes?
  - A. We belong to God!**
    - Therefore we should give Him our lives!
    - Like they were to pay their dues.
- But we don't, do we?

- We think we own ourselves
- We say things like "It's my life"
- But we often don't even know what we're supposed to be doing with it!
  
- In another place Jesus likens us to a lost coin.
  - If a coin is lost - say, on the ground, in the dirt
  - It has lost its value,
  - it can't be used for its intended purpose.
  
- But if it's found it can be used again
  - Its value is restored.
  
- That's like us
  - Whether you know it or not, you are stamped with an image
  - It cannot be explained any other way why we are personal, moral, conscious beings.
  
- Don't live a lost existence
- Live one with true purpose and value
- Give to God what is His.



- You know, that coin was silver.
  - Silver is linked to redemption in the Bible
  - Redemption means to be purchased back from slavery
  - That's exactly what Christ did on the cross for those who would put their trust in Him.
  - Will you be a slave to sin?
  - Or redeemed at a great price?