

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A (Mt 22: 15-21)

17th & 18th of October 2026

Dear friends,

In today's Gospel, we see the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus with a tricky question. They ask Him, *"Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"*

This was a dangerous trap. If Jesus said yes, the Jewish people would be angry because they hated the Roman rulers. If He said no, the Romans would arrest Him as a rebel. It seemed like there was no way out.

But Jesus sees right through their plan. He asks to see a coin and asks them, *"Whose image is on this?"* They reply, *"Caesar's."* Then Jesus gives His famous answer: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

There is a beautiful story about a priest who was talking to a group of children about this Gospel. He held up a coin and said, "Look at this money. It has the face of a president stamped onto it. Because his face is on it, it belongs to the government." Then, the priest looked at the children and asked, "But whose image is stamped onto you?"

That is the exact question Jesus is asking each of us sitting in the church today. A metal coin carries the image of an earthly ruler, so it goes to worldly things. But we carry the very image of God. Genesis tells us that God created us in His own image and likeness. In baptism, that mark was sealed on our soul forever.

We do not belong to the government, to a political party, to our job, or to our bank account. We belong entirely to God.

As we are living in the world, giving to Caesar means being good citizens. It means obeying fair laws, paying our taxes, and helping our local community. But we must never give our souls to worldly things. Giving to God means giving Him our daily prayers, our weekly worship, our love, and our loyalty.

This week, let us look in the mirror and remember whose image we carry. Let us live every day knowing that we are God's precious children, and let us give our whole hearts back to Him.

 **Let us pray**

Lord Jesus, You created us in Your own image and likeness. Help us to do our duties well in this world, but never let us forget that our hearts belong entirely to You. Give us the grace to love and serve You above all things. Amen.