Luke's Gospel: Render to Caesar.
Pastor Chad Ellenburg
Text: Luke 20:19-26
October 3, 2021

19 The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. 20 So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

There will always be spies and traitors among us… and some of them will turn to Jesus.

21 So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. 22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"

Should we pay our taxes, Jesus?

23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, 24 "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." 25 He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 26 And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

Whose image is stamped on your soul?

Food for Thought for the week of October 3, 2021
(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

As you think about these questions, remember that God's Word is living and active, able to time-travel, and has been written for you.

1. Where are you in the passage? Picture yourself standing in the crowd, listening to Jesus. What are you feeling? Conviction?Compassion? Is He looking at you?

2. Now imagine that Jesus has finished speaking and you approach Him. He smiles and welcomes you over. What do you want to ask Him?

3. As you listen to His Spirit and continue to reflect on the story, how does He answer you? What else is He saying to you?

4. Part of responding to God's Word is realizing that His grace is the fuel that will enable you. Do you sense His grace at work in your heart? What is He asking you to do next?