

Scripture Passage: Luke 20: 19-26

Story Point: Do you think anyone can trick Jesus? In this passage, we see scribes and chief priests trying to trick him. They begin by insincerely complimenting Jesus and then ask him this question: “Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar or not?” Jesus recognizes their trick, and instead of answering them with a yes or no response, he asks them to show him a denarius coin. He asks them whose image and what words are written on it. They examine the coin and answer “Caesar’s.” Then, Jesus tells them that they should give to Caesar the things that are his (like taxes) and give to God the things that are his (all of creation and their lives- since we are made in the image of God). The scribes and chief priests were stunned at Jesus’ response and were silent.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus handle the challenge to his authority in this chapter?
- The scribes and chief priests tried to trick Jesus. What are some ways that we try to trick God to get what we want?
- If we are supposed to “*render to God the things that are God’s,*” what are you expected to give to him?
- What area(s) do you need to submit to God that you haven’t fully given him control over?
- How do you reconcile earthly responsibilities (like paying taxes) and spiritual responsibilities in your life, as taught by Jesus?
- How can we balance our duties to government authorities with our duties to God, as instructed by Jesus? (See Rom. 13:1-2)

