

# Stewardship Message

## *Imagine yourself in the story ... almost a meditation*

*Then he said to them "whose head is on this and whose title?...When they heard this, they left him and went away. (Matthew 22: 20, 22)*

The Pharisees and Herodians are gone. All the people trying to trap Jesus left. In fact, all the stresses in your life have temporarily slunk away. Some of those stresses involve money – a debt, a legacy, a job worry. People were never able to challenge Jesus with money problems. He let them go. So can you.

You are in the story with Jesus and his circle of disciples. He told his challengers they should render God, God-things, and render the contemporary world things that belong to it. You do render God prayer, worship, little deeds of justice or compassion – a letter to your senator, work at the soup kitchen, care for someone who is young or old or lonely, your offering. But the denarius, the twenty dollar bill? You want to ask Jesus how you should render your money. There are so many good things. Groceries – good. Something for a child – prom dress, gymnastics lesson, college education – good. A vacation -- good. Rent, a car payment ... a new car -- good.

Do you think God doesn't care how you use money that doesn't go to church? Wrong. Jesus sits with a denarius, waiting to show every disciple a different face on it – a *this-world* place that is right for *this* coin. Jesus holds out a coin to you (or maybe a bill). What do you see? The face on the coin is not harmful but hopeful. It may be inexpensive or a big investment. It's best for you, those you love, those around you, and some you don't even know.

Holding the coin, think what spending this money means. What other things will it touch? What other people? The face on the coin will be different another day. Close your imaginary hand and ask God to bless it. When you open your hand, the coin will be gone; but the memory will be there.

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God is still speaking,



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