



Gospel

ARTICLE NO. 2006.411

Topic Mr 12:13-17

Render Unto Caesar

13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that **thou** art true, and **carest for no man**: for thou **regardest not the person** of men, but teachest the **way** of God in truth:

Is it lawful to **give tribute to Caesar**, or not?

15 **Shall we give, or shall we not give?**

But he, **knowing their hypocrisy**, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.

17 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Render** [give away, back, up] to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and [give away, back, up] to God **the things** [kingdom, temple,] **that are God's**.

And they marvelled [admired] at him.



Glen Miller

WAESHAEEL

Mt 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is **God's** throne:

Joh 8:47 He that is of God heareth **God's** words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

Mt 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are **God's**.

Lu 20:24-25 ... They answered and said, Caesar's. And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be **God's**.

"Caesar" or "Most Noble Caesar"; an honorific name later used to identify an Emperor-designate.

Augustus meant "Majestic" or "Venerable"; an honorific cognomen exclusive to the emperor

The Denarius was a small silver coin, the common in circulation, and equal to a day's wage for a laborer, - about \$20 value today . The denarius was in circulation for over 400 years. It was called a "penny" in the KJV 1611 and strangely the symbol for a penny is "d" which harkens back to this old Roman coin.

Translated, "denarius" means "contains ten" as when it was first minted in BCE 211, it was equal to ten ases. The personal images (as opposed to deities) on the obverse of coins began in BCE 44 and were usually of the ancestors of the moneymen who were authorized to mint coins. It was until Julius Caesar reigned (49 BCE - 44 BCE), illegal to put on any coin the portrait of a living person. After Julius Caesar died, the denarius had portraits of Brutus, Mark Anthony, and others, with their names and title surrounding the portrait. And it became the custom from then on to always portray the reigning emperor. Though coins showing wives and other family members were also minted. Some of the coins minted under Julius had images of Venus or Aeneas rather than his own image to suggest that he was related to these "gods".

After Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BCE, newly minted coins showed portraits of Octavian, Brutus, or Mark Antony (d. 30 BCE), Octavian defeated Mark Antony in 33 BCE. and became

Octavianus Augustus and emperor 27 BCE - 14 AD.

TIBERIUS Claudius Nero 14 AD - 37 AD

Caligula 37 AD - 41 AD.

Tiberius **CLAUDIUS** Nero 41 AD-51 AD

Roman coins from 157 BCE through 236 AD

Top Left - Roman Republic image of Apollo?
Next Emp. Vespasian 73AD after the temple was destroyed.
Next Marcus Aurelius AD 161, others even later.



| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

The Romans attached a moral value to the coins.

The philosopher Epictetus jokingly wrote: "Whose image does this sestertius carry? Trajan's? Give it to me. Nero's? Throw it away, it is unacceptable, it is rotten." Although the writer did not seriously expect people to get rid of their coins, this quotation demonstrates that the Romans attached a moral value to the images on their coins.

So you see that the coin that Jesus examined, could have had the image of

a 'god' Venus, Roma, etc.

an ancestor of the minting authority

a deceased emperor like Julius Caesar (d. 44 BCE),

Brutus (d. 42 BCE)

Mark Anthony (d. BCE 30)

Augustus (d. 14 AD)

a reigning emperor - Tiberius (14AD - 37AD)

"Caesar" was an honorific title given to all Emperors after Augustus 14 AD, but also used colloquially to signify other heads of state.

So what does "render unto Caesar" mean when "Caesar" could mean any of these people above, most of whom were dead in A.D. 30 when Jesus said this.

