

Sunday 22 October

Trinity 20



In our Gospel lesson today, Jesus encounters some people who try to trick him with a question: "Should people pay taxes to the government?"

These people did not like Jesus very much, and they wanted to trap him, thinking that he might get into trouble if he said that taxes were not important. On the other hand, if he said that people of God should pay taxes, the Jews might become angry because not everyone liked the Roman government. Jesus, being the son of God and far wiser than Pharisee tricks, gave them another answer. He asked them to show him a coin, and asked whose picture was on the coin. The Roman Emperor (Caesar) was pictured on the coin, so Jesus pointed out that money could go back to the people in charge of the government, because they were in charge of the state, but he also said, "Give to God what is God's."

What belongs to God? Well, everything! We recognise that we can (and must) use some of our money on things like groceries, clothes, or whatever else we need to survive, and taxes pay for our schools and hospitals and the services we all need. It's important to remember that God is not just another item on the cost of living index though! We give to him with our offerings, but we also give our whole lives to him.

Coins and money and taxes are necessary, but those things don't last. Eventually, they fade away. Our lives are meant to serve God, because he loves us. He has given us all that we have, and we are giving back to him of his own. We live through the practicalities of life on Earth, but we know

something better awaits us, because God makes us part of his family and gives us the opportunity to be part of his kingdom, now and forever! That's a wonderful thing to remember - the most wonderful thing!

So, yes, we obey the law here and now...but we also have the good news of the Gospel, which is for eternity!

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Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21



Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.
A. pharisees B. republicans C. hypocrites D. democrats
- ___ 2. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
A. taxes B. plans C. trap D. words
- ___ 3. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.
A. trap B. plans C. truth D. coin
- ___ 4. Something that we speak or write.
A. taxes B. amazed C. words D. trap
- ___ 5. Someone who gives instructions to students.
A. teacher B. pharisees C. portrait D. Caesar
- ___ 6. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
A. plans B. words C. truth D. trap
- ___ 7. To give someone money in return for something.
A. trap B. pay C. plans D. truth
- ___ 8. Money paid to the government.
A. trap B. portrait C. Caesar D. taxes
- ___ 9. What a person thinks about something.
A. trap B. opinion C. truth D. plans
- ___ 10. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
A. coin B. taxes C. words D. pay

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Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



U Q J P F L K C Z Q T A X E S
Y N W N L O V Q P J H N J Z D
Z A H R H A P C K B W K S E K
D P K E F T N I L Q E O Z H G
A H R P A R T S N P S A R A C
D A Y L Q A E K I I M A F D N
D R Y I A P A C N A O N A Y S
W I P E B O C A T S U N A L Z
F S S D L N H E E U U W V D V
Z E I C S G E S G O L E N B E
F E W W I L R A R S Z B T G L
U S T N B P T R I U Y G B I O
V F L Y H G L I T Z U O F V G
K T R U T H O E Y P U T K E H
V M V K Q X K D S O Z A D K G

GOD
CAESAR
WAY
PHARISEES

WORDS
TAXES
PLANS
TEACHER

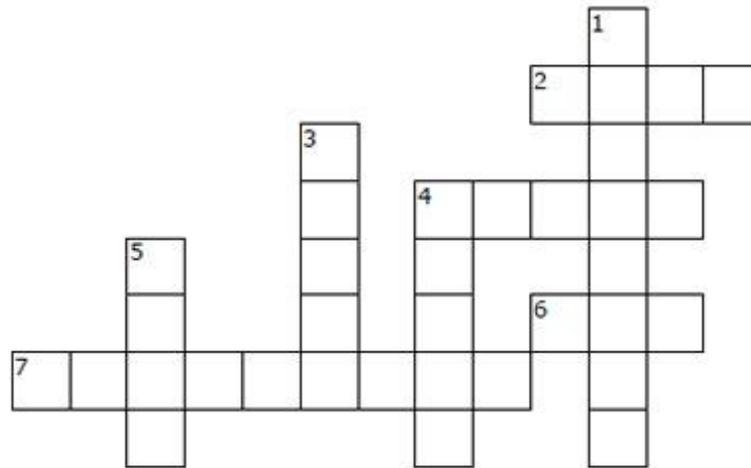
DISCIPLES
AMAZED
GIVE
INTEGRITY

OPINION
REPLIED
TRAP
TRUTH

Paying Taxes to Caesar

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ACROSS

2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
6. To give someone money in return for something.
7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
4. Money paid to the government.
5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES
TRUTH

TRAP
PAY

PORTRAIT
PHARISEES

PLANS
COIN



