
BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



Fr. Thomas M. Pastorius

October 19, 2014

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 145

Gospel [mt 22:15-21](#)

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Spiritual Reflection:

A coin may have an important person's image on it but we all have God's image imprinted on us. When secret service agents train people to spot counterfeits they do so not by studying counterfeits but by studying the real money with all its security features. The more we study Christ who is the truth the easier it will become to spot falsehoods.

Spiritual Question:

1. Why can't the Pharisees leave Jesus alone?
2. What is a Christian civic responsibility?
3. What is the role of the state in religion?
4. Why do they want to trap Jesus?
5. Can anyone level the charge of hypocrite against you? Can Jesus?

