



October 22, 2017 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 few years ago someone created a fake e-mail account in my name and they used that account to try to get information (sometime personal) information from them. Not knowing that this was happening, I ended up with a lot of people mad at me. With the help of some lawyers, I was able to shut down the fake account because I was able to show that person was not who he claimed to be. He was an imposter. As Catholics we claim to be made in the image of God. Do we act in this way or do we act in a way that makes others think we are imposters?

Spiritual Questions

1. How can you be a more authentic Christian?
2. Why was it so important for Pharisees and Herodians to discredit Jesus?
3. Do you believe that you were made in the image of God?
4. Do you believe others are made in the image of God?
5. How exactly were the Pharisees and Herodians being "hypocrites?"