

May 13

Hypocrites Hate Jesus' Authority, but He Calls them to God

What will I give to Yahweh for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of Yahweh. I will pay my vows to Yahweh, yes, in the presence of all his people...I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving – Psalm 116:12-14

[Matthew 22:15-22, Jerusalem, Tuesday]
Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how they might entrap him in his talk. *They watched him, and sent out spies, who pretended to be righteous, that they might trap him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the power and authority of the governor.* They sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are honest, and teach the way of God in truth, no matter whom you teach, for you aren't partial to anyone. Tell us therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? *Shall we give, or shall we not give?*"

Give...to God the things that are God's

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the tax money."

They brought to him a denarius.

He asked them, "Whose is this image and inscription?"

They said to him, "Caesar's."

Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

When they heard it, they marveled, and left him, and went away. [Mark 12:13-17, Luke 20:20-26]

1. Who are your Caesars? What's theirs? What's God's? How will you give it to him?

2. Do you pretend to be righteous? How? What can you do to stop being a hypocrite?

3. God, all that I have is yours, I fight against giving it to you and am a hypocrite when I...