

Render to Caesar...

Matthew 22	Mark 12	Luke 20
15 {a} Then the Pharisees went and took counsel [...]¹		20 {a} They watched him and sent out spies, who pretended to be righteous, [...]
15 {b} [...] how they might entrap him in his talk.	13 {c} [...] that they might trap him with words.	20 {b} [...] that they might trap him in something he said, [...]
		20 {c} [...] so as to deliver him up to the power and authority of the governor.
16 {a} They sent their disciples to him, [...]	13 {a} They sent some of the Pharisees [...]	
16 {b} [...] along with the Herodians, [...]²	13 {b} [...] and the Herodians to him, [...]	
	14 {a} When they had come, [...]	
16 {c} [...] saying, “Teacher, we know that you are honest,” [...]	14 {b} [...] they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you are honest,” [...]	21 {a} They asked him, “Teacher, we know that you say and teach what is right,” [...]
16 {e} [...] “no matter whom you teach;” [...]	14 {c} [...] “and don’t defer to anyone;” [...]	
16 {f} [...] “for you aren’t partial to anyone.”	14 {d} [...] “for you aren’t partial to anyone,” [...]	21 {b} [...] “and aren’t partial to anyone,” [...]
16 {d} [...] “and teach the way of God in truth,” [...]	14 {e} [...] “but truly teach the way of God.” [...]	21 {c} [...] “but truly teach the way of God.”
17 {a} “Tell us therefore, what do you think?” [...]		
17 {b} [...] “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”³	14 {f} [...] “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”	22 “Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”
	15 {a} “Shall we give, or shall we not give?” [...]⁴	
18 {a} But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test me,” [...]	15 {b} [...] But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why do you test me?” [...]	23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, “Why do you test me?”
18 {b} [...] “you hypocrites?”		
19 {a} “Show me the tax money.” [...]	15 {c} [...] “Bring me a denarius, that I may see it.”⁵	24 {a} “Show me a denarius.” [...]
19 {b} [...] They brought to him a denarius.	16 {a} They brought it. [...]	

¹ The Pharisees (Mt 22:15a; Mk 12:13a) were strict traditionalists, who typically opposed the encroachment of Roman culture and practices.

² The Herodians (Mt 22:16b; Mk 12:13b) were supporters of the existing Roman administration, led by Herod Antipas—even if not supporters of Roman rule in general.

³ The ruler in question (Mt 22:17b; Mk 12:14f; Lk 20:22) was Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus, also known as Tiberius. However, the scope of the question is not limited *only* to *this* Caesar.

⁴ Aside from the political implications to this question (Mt 22:17b; Mk 12:14f-15a; Lk 20:22), the pagan themes present in the designs of the denarius coins would have offended the Jews’ religious sensibilities.

⁵ A denarius (Mt 22:19b; Mk 12:15c; Lk 20:24a) was roughly the equivalent of one day’s wages for the average menial laborer.

Matthew 22	Mark 12	Luke 20
20 He asked them, “Whose is this image and inscription?” ⁶	16 {b} [...] He said to them, “Whose is this image and inscription?” [...]	24 {b} [...] “Whose image and inscription are on it?” [...]
21 {a} They said to him, “Caesar’s.” [...]	16 {c} [...] They said to him, “Caesar’s.”	24 {c} [...] They answered, “Caesar’s.”
21 {b} [...] Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”	17 {a} Jesus answered them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” [...]	25 He said to them, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
		26 {a} They weren’t able to trap him in his words before the people. [...]
22 {a} When they heard it, they marveled, [...]	17 {b} [...] They marveled greatly at him.	26 {b} [...] They marveled at his answer [...]
		26 {c} [...] and were silent.
22 {b} [...] and left him and went away.		

⁶ The Greek words translated as “image” and “inscription” are εἰκὼν (*eikon*) and ἐπιγραφή (*epigraphē*), respectively, from which we get words like icon and epigraph. These are symbols of authority.