

The Reflection on the Gospel of Sunday 18th October : (29th Sunday of year)

according to Matthew 22 :15—22...Image of the coin.

This is an interesting Gospel story.....selected probably by St. Matthew for inclusion in his final composition of stories -or preserved precisely by him because he was a tax-collectorone of a hated tribe of people working for the government of the day whose chief loyalties and royalties lay with Caesar the Emperor. In it Jesus is “cornered” by the Pharisees to declare where are his loyalties as a devout Jew taxed to the hilt by an occupying army of Romans and also by usurers who claimed far more than their fair share of the collected revenue for themselves.

Although Jesus reprimands the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, he didn't lose his cool entirely with their plan of entrapment. He reached out- -to ask for a visual aid—always a good Teacher---- and they gave him a Roman coin. ...Notice it was their money he used ... he really was the Poor man of Nazareth. !! Then he interrogated THEM .

“Whose image is this ? “ie..... . “What do you see ? “

Of course they answer .. “ Caesar's “!

He then gives them the punch -line.. “ Well then ..give back to Caesar what belong to him, and to God ,what belongs to God “ !

Know your boundaries, know what belongs to the Lord, and to the government , and all the other demanding groups and people in your lives. Don't mix them up , He seems to be saying to us. Its rather like our gift of time given to us by the Lord, and also our many commitments whether to family , friends or to our workplace. In this time of the Covid epidemic , see what is really important, sort out the priorities especially with regard to time spent with the Lord in prayer. The rest will follow.