

Matthew 22:15-22
The Trap

The Critical Debate in time of Jesus

How do we interact with a Roman Empire that has taken over our land?

How do we face seemingly inevitable compromises to our way of life?

How do we keep our worship from being tainted or compromised by this Roman Empire?

How do we hold to God's promises while reality is painful and unjust?

Different Groups/Philosophies

Pharisees

Sadducees

Essenes

Zealots

Herodians

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Pharisees &
Herodians Together?

*The enemy of my enemy is
my friend*

The Trap

Tribute tax

The Coin: “Caesar Augustus Tiberius, Son of the Divine Augustus”



Verses 18-19

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,

“Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.”

And they brought him a denarius...

Verses 20-21

And Jesus said to them: “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”

They said, “Caesar’s”

And He said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

When they heard it, they marvelled. And they left Him and went away.

A Third Way

Jesus points us to a Third Way that does not bow to a particular political party or ideology. It is a creative, imaginative and prophetic path forward that is both respectful and revolutionary. It is the Way of the Kingdom of God, and it acknowledges that everything is God's.