



FOLLOWING JESUS

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 8 – WHOSE IMAGE?

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Him in His words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that You are a man of integrity and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because You pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is Your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap Me? ¹⁹Show Me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought Him a denarius, ²⁰and He asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then He said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away.

– Matthew 22:15-22 NIV

OBSERVATIONS

- Jesus never sought the _____ of others
- There is a conflict between the _____ of this _____ and the _____ of _____
- Followers of Jesus need not feel _____ to _____ a _____
- We must recognize the _____ of _____ over _____
- Jesus has called His followers to choose _____
- Jesus has called His followers to choose God’s _____

BIG IDEA

The _____ you _____ transcends the _____ you _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

1. Why didn't Jesus take the bait when the Pharisees and Herodians tried to trap Him?
2. What can this teach us about political arguments and disagreements we might be drawn into?
3. How did Jesus push back against the pressure to pick a side in order to receive praise?
4. What is the conflict between the powers of this world and the Person of Jesus?
5. Why is it significant that the powers of the world represented in this passage were on opposite ends of the political spectrum?
6. Why do we often feel pressured to pick a side?
7. How did Jesus' response demonstrate God's providence (authority) over everything?
8. What does it mean to choose people over positions?
9. Tell of a time that a person chose a position over a relationship with you or tell of a time that you chose a position over a relationship with someone else.
10. What does it mean to choose God's purposes over politics?
11. How can politics become a barrier to God's purposes in the church and the world?
12. Who bears the image of God? What does this communicate about the image we bear over the labels we wear?