

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Drawn from “Caesar and God,” A Sermon on Mark 12:13-17

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

February 8, 2026 AM

One of the central concepts of this week’s Bible passage and sermon was image (in the sense of physical resemblance or “likeness”). Who do you look like and what difference has this made in your life?

Look again at verse 14. Explain how these two questions are a trap and how Jesus’ answer overcomes the trap.

Look again at verse 16. Talk about the image and inscription that were on this denarius. Why would the Jews have found this coin to be inherently offensive?

In recent weeks we have studied two interactions in which Jesus verbally spars with the leadership of Jerusalem (compare this week’s passage with Mark 11:27ff). What can we learn from these interactions from a rhetorical and apologetic (*i.e. “apologetic” in the sense of Apologetics (an intellectual defense of the Christian faith)*) perspective?

You are talking with a sincere Christian who is making a serious case that Christians should not pay federal taxes. He argues, “*Our federal government is tyrannical, corrupt, and out of control. It uses our money to support manifest evils like abortion and transgenderism. The only way to stop this evil is to pull the financial plug. If every Christian agreed to stop paying his/her taxes at the same time, the government would be crippled with no need for violence or revolution. How can a faithful Christian allow his/her money to support such an evil institution?*” How do you respond?

In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti reminded us of the danger of being politically compromised (like the Herodians). Where do you see examples of this?

In the sermon Pastor Nicoletti suggested that we examine our own political engagement and ask ourselves whether we tend more towards rebellion or compromise. What would you say about yourself?

In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti asked us to consider what it looks like to simultaneously resist and submit to political leaders. Pick a few specific situations or examples and talk about this.