

Show Me the Coin

Mark 12:13-44

by Don Falkos

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Some religious and political leaders tried to trick Jesus into saying something he could be arrested for. "Teacher, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew what they were doing. He said, "Show me the coin that's used to pay the taxes." They handed him one, and he asked, "Whose face is this on the coin, and whose name is in the inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

"Well then, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

When asked about the resurrection of the dead, Jesus replied, "Moses calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob'. God is not God of the dead, but of the living."

An expert in the Law asked, "Which is the most important of the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all that is in you, and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Then to the crowd Jesus said, "Why do the experts in the Law say that the Messiah is the Son of David when David himself calls the Messiah 'Lord'? Be on your guard against the experts in the Law. They love to garner attention as they seek respect and honor. While at the same time they cheat widows out of their homes and cover everything up with long prayers. These men will be severely punished."

Jesus watched as some wealthy people dropped their gifts into the Temple's offering boxes. Then he noticed a poor widow putting in two small copper coins that were practically worthless. Jesus commented, "She has given more than all the others. They only put in what they didn't need. But she is very poor and has given everything she had."