

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1,4-6
Ps 96:1,3-5,7-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

Monday October 23

Romans 4:20-25
Lk 1:69-75
Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday October 24

Romans 5:12,15,17-19-21
Ps 40:7-10,17
Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday October 25

Romans 6:12-18
Ps 124:1b-8
Luke 12:39-48

Thursday October 26

Romans 6:19-23
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 12:49-53

Friday October 27

Romans 7:18-25a
Ps 119:66,68,76,77,93,94
Luke 12:54-59

Saturday October 28 Sts. Simon and Jude

Ephesians 2:19-22
Ps 19:2-3,4-5
Luke 6:12-16

In the Gospel reading, when Jesus asks the Pharisees to tell him whose image was engraved on the coin owed for the census tax, he uses it to teach a lesson about the image that should be engraved upon our hearts. Our hearts should belong to God and to God alone.

The Romans believed that their emperors were divine. Therefore, to possess Roman coins meant carrying around the graven image of a human god. The Pharisees knew this when they challenged Jesus.

Paying the census tax to Caesar symbolized more than just submission to a foreign government. It had religious connotations. If Jesus was a true prophet, he should speak up against Jews pos-

sessing pagan coins. If he was a true messiah, he should deliver them from the oppression and taxes of the foreign government – or so they thought.

We don't know how they happened to have the Roman coin that they showed to Jesus. If they pulled it out of their own purses, which is likely, it revealed their hypocrisy. However, Jesus wasn't just interested in exposing their hypocrisy; he wanted to make a point about the True Messiah.



If we belong to God, Jesus is engraved upon our hearts. We have been rescued from the destruction of sin by the Messiah. We have let him deliver us from the oppression of evil that was caused by our sins.

Whose image do others see when they look at your life? When people see you, do they see Jesus engraved upon you? To the extent that they do, that's the extent to which you belong to the kingdom of God!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How do you know that others see Jesus in your life? What's the evidence?
2. What have they told you about yourself that is also a description of Christ?
3. What are some of the ways in which Jesus has come into your life and changed you from within?
4. How has that changed the way you live?
5. How does this evangelize the people around you?