

# PROPER 24: GIVING TO GOD

THE STORY:  
MATTHEW 22:15-22



Once again, people who opposed Jesus and his message are trying to entrap him. This is the first of three exchanges between the Jewish leaders and Jesus. The lesson begins with them buttering Jesus up, and then asking a question that they thought would show that he was speaking out against the government so that he could get arrested. However, Jesus does not fall for it and calls them to the test instead.

## YOUNGER CHILDREN

### Reflection Questions:

I wonder why the people were trying to trick Jesus into answering a tricky question?

- I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, “give to the emperor the things that are the emperors.”
- I wonder what Jesus meant when he said give to “God the things that are God’s?”
- I wonder how we give to God?



## OLDER YOUTH

What was the goal of the Pharisees in asking this question?

What may they have hoped to gain through flattery?

Why do you think some Jews may have advocated not paying tax to Caesar?

How did Jesus answer them? What is the essence of what He is saying?

Does Jesus’ answer relate to our lives today? How?



## ACTIVITIES

1. To help us remember the ways in which we can give to God, we are going to create a giving bowl. Each of you will receive a bowl to decorate and cards to fill in with ways that you can give back to God the things that are God’s. Each day, on your own or with your family, you can draw a card out of the bowl and work to do thing that day in order to give back to God.

**AUTUMN PLACEMATS:** Draw or collect outside leaves to place on colored placemats. Write answers to the lesson question - **WHAT DO WE OWE GOD? WE OWE HIM OUR ALL!** Cover the placemats with clear contact paper and decorate your table during the Fall season.

