

## Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 22:18** *Jesus sees the trap*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What made the Pharisees hypocrites?*
2. *How do you respond to questions you feel are unfair?*

**Prayer Focus** Jesus, you passed all our foolish tests, all the while showing us your humor, grace, and tolerance. Change our hearts to align with yours, no matter what.

## Thursday

Read: **Matthew 22:19-21** *God or Caesar?*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Which commandments or laws did the Pharisees break in this passage?*
2. *What do you believe are things that belong to the world and which things belong to God? Can you separate them?*

**Prayer Focus** God, we've been known to walk into the temple with Cesar's image in our hands, with the world's attractions in our hearts. Forgive us. Justify us within your margins, not the world's. Heal us so we put you first, over all else.

## Friday

Read: **Matthew 22:22** *The trap fails*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What was so amazing to Jesus's listeners?*
2. *How would you answer the questions in this passage: what do you owe to God, and what do you owe to the world?*

**Prayer Focus** Amazing God, we want to improve on our past. We have fond memories and dark ones but we have mercies that are here and now, new each morning. We commit ourselves to learning from the past, and we ask for your guidance for the journey ahead.

## Looking Back

Pastor's message: **Matthew 22:15-22; *It's a Wonderful Life/Stewardship***

Message Notes:

## Small Group Format



### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Do you feel things were better in the past? What one thing do you miss most from the past you know?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Matthew 22:15-22**

- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

*Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

## LOOKING BACK October 9, 2022

### Monday

**Read: Matthew 22:15-16** *The plan to trip up Jesus*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did the Pharisees think they needed to trap Jesus?*
2. *Reflect on a time when you might not have been honest with God. Pray for compassion and new understanding.*

**Prayer Focus** We have had our Pharisee moments, God, when we've longed to get Jesus to tell us what we want to hear, or to overlook what we want to hide. We ask your pardon for believing in you so weakly that we cannot be truthful. Heal us, beloved.

### Tuesday

**Read: Matthew 22:17** *Trick question*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you feel taxes are necessary in our world? Why?*
2. *The Jews were living under Roman rule but had laws of their own. What might have happened if people chose to resist the Romans by not paying their taxes?*

**Prayer Focus** We live in your world, God, and that world compels us to confront how we as Christians live with both your laws and the laws of the world. Help us remember whose we are and what you ask of us in all our actions