

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

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Ready to be amazed by Jesus

Matthew 22:15-22

You are created in the image of God. You were designed by God, He invites you to follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

So how do we do that? And what happens when we read this passage?

The scene is set with the religious leaders of the time trying to catch Jesus out. By using a Roman example, they hoped to put Him on shaky ground, not only with the Jewish people but also with their noisy neighbours, the Romans.

Jesus shows His wisdom. He notices the trap that has been set. He is asked whether the people should pay taxes to the Romans. He then invites them to show Him a coin, moving the attention away from a debate between them and Him and towards a central point.

Next, He asks two questions of the onlookers. Both answers point to Caesar: his image is on the coin, and his inscription is on it too. Jesus then responds, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's."

But if we are not careful, we miss one of the key moments: "...and to God what is God's."

Now this leaves everyone amazed, and the questioners disperse.

But I think there is even more to uncover from this conversation.

I believe we can also take away the fact that we are created in God's image, and that life comes from God. As we live our lives, we are called to follow the way of Jesus and give our whole lives to Him.

Suddenly, it is not about money. It is about everything.

Wake up with Jesus. Wash up with Jesus. Make life's choices with Jesus. Praise Jesus in all that you do. It is what we were designed to do, and it is our purpose.

So let's break it down into three actions:

Head: Know that you are loved and created by God. Profound and amazing.

Heart: Ask God to fill your heart with His love, and with love for others too. Grace-filled and gracious.

Hands: In all you do, take time to remember that Jesus is with you and give it back to Him in worship. Engaging and participating.

We live in the power of Jesus' Spirit, not just for ourselves but to bless others. Transformation in Jesus comes through community with others, even when it's tough. So let's be ready to be amazed by Jesus!

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