

"Caesar's coin" in synoptic comparison (elements in BOLD unique to each gospel)

MARK 12.13-17

Then they sent to him some **Pharisees** and some **Herodians** to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes [Greek, *kēnson*] to the emperor, or not? **Should we pay them, or should we not?**" But **knowing their hypocrisy**, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? **Bring me** a denarius and let me see it." **And they brought one. Then he said to them**, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were **utterly** amazed at him.

MATTHEW 22.15-22

Then the Pharisees went and **plotted** to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, **along with the** Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. **Tell us, then, what you think.** Is it lawful to pay taxes [Greek, *kēnson*] to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, **aware of their malice**, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, **you hypocrites?** Show me **the coin used for the tax.**" And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." **When they heard this**, they were amazed; **and they left him and went away.**

LUKE 20.20-26

So they watched him and sent **spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him** by what he said, **so as to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor.** So they asked him, "Teacher, we know **that you are right in what you say and teach**, and you show deference to no one, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes [Greek, *phoron*] to the emperor, or not?" But **he perceived their craftiness** and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "The emperor's." He said to them, "Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." **And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said;** and being amazed **by his answer, they became silent.**