



Week beginning October 18th

Belonging to God

Opening Questions

- There has been discussion in recent times about what images should be on our banknotes in addition to the king's head. If you could choose an image, what would it be?
- How easy do you find it to identify yourself as a Christian when you meet new groups of people? Why can it sometimes be difficult?

Getting into the text

Read Matthew 22:15-22

- Thinking back to the readings in the last two weeks, why do you think the Pharisees were determined to catch Jesus out?
- How did they try to flatter him into making the response they wanted? Why did the flattery not work?
- Why might the Pharisees have reasoned that paying the Roman poll tax to Caesar dishonoured God?

- How did Jesus answer their question? What was their response?

Applying the Bible to your life

- How could you apply Jesus' answer to your life today as a citizen of both God's kingdom and the UK? What potential challenges might there be in being part of both kingdoms?
- What strategies do you use when people ask you challenging and difficult questions about your faith? What might help you to grow in confidence in this area?

Something to pray about

Colossians 2:17 says this, **'¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'**

- Ask God to help you to honour him in your words and actions especially in situations which are challenging and difficult.
- Pray for Christian leaders and politicians as they live out their faith under constant media scrutiny.
- Ask God to strengthen and encourage Christians in countries where their faith is illegal and they face persecution.