LIFE TOGETHER NOTES

THE SERMON SERIES: THE PURSUIT OF GENEROSITY

"HOW GENEROSITY CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

Week of October 18, 2026

Introduction: In Matthew 22, Jesus is beginning to make his way to Jerusalem to die on the cross for us. In Matthew 21, Jesus came into the city on a donkey to fulfill the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9, which said that Israel's king would come riding on a donkey. By this time the Pharisees and other religious leaders were beginning to plot Jesus' demise, because they saw all the people were going after him. In today's story, the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking him if they should pay tax to Caesar or not. Jesus replied by asking them to look at the image on the coin and said, *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's!"*

Icebreaker:

1. What was your first job and what did you do with your first paycheck?

2. If you suddenly had to pay a 10% 'tax' on one thing you currently enjoy—your hobbies, entertainment, food, free time, etc.—what would you be most annoyed to pay it on, and why?"

Have someone read: Matthew 22:15-22

Digging Deeper:

1. What trap were the Pharisees trying to set for Jesus? How did he get out of it?

2. Why would Jesus have supported paying the imperial tax to Caesar?

3. Does Jesus' teaching say anything about how Christians should relate to the government and obey its laws? *(Read Romans 13:6 for Paul's affirmation of Jesus' teaching)*

4. Whose image and inscription were on the coin, and why might that detail matter? If humans are made in God's image, what does it mean to *"render"* ourselves to God?

Application for Daily Life:

1. As a Christian, what do you think it means to be a responsible employee, employer, neighbor, or citizen?

2. How can people use faith as an excuse to shirk their civic duties and responsibilities?

3. Do you think Jesus' statement, *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's",* means we should obey every command of an authority regardless of what it asks? Give an example of when we might choose to disobey? (See Acts 5:29)

4. Where in your life do you think you can give more to God of what is already his?

Close in prayer for each other's specific requests? Pray for the person on your right!