

Thursday, Week 4: Mark 12:17

*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. (NRSV)*

1. Time and again, when the religious leaders of his day tried to trap Jesus, he amazed them with his wisdom. Reflect on what amazes you about Jesus.

2. Jesus set our obligation to human rulers in the context of a life life entirely obligated to God, thus evaporating the contradiction his opponents had raised. What contradictions trouble you, that might also evaporate by changing your perspective?

3. Without saying it in so many words, Jesus taught that ultimately, everything comes from God. As you consider the gift of God that we celebrate at Christmas – Jesus – how might you practically share that gift with others?



Almighty God: You are the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, and the lover of my soul. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to show us how to live, and how to love you and one another. Thank you for Christmas. Amen.