



project.org

STUDENT HANDOUT

YELLOW LEVEL
GRADE LEVEL

Whose Image Is This?

Grades 5–8 • Religion

James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

ADMIT ONE

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLASS _____

In Jerusalem, a few days before he died, Jesus was handed a silver coin and asked whether God's people should pay taxes to Rome. His answer is one of the most famous sentences ever spoken about money, power and God.

PART 1

OI The trap

“Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

MATTHEW 22:19–21

Explain the trap. What would happen to Jesus if he answered *yes*? What would happen if he answered *no*?



REPLICA

CASE 7 • MINISTRY AND PASSION

The Tribute Penny

COIN Silver denarius of Tiberius
DATE 14–37 AD
REFERENCE RIC I 30
SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:21

The face is the emperor Tiberius. The inscription calls him *son of the divine Augustus*, and the reverse reads PONTIF MAXIM — *High Priest*. To a faithful Jew, the coin itself was a provocation.

02

PART 2

Why the answer works

Jesus asks for the coin and asks whose image is on it. How does his answer escape the trap without taking either side the questioners wanted?

03

PART 3

Two images

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27

Compare the coin with the human person.

THE COIN

THE HUMAN PERSON

Whose image does it carry?

Who made it?

So who does it belong to?

What is owed back?

04

PART 4

Reflect

Write a paragraph (5–6 sentences): if you carry God's image, what does *give back to God what is God's* ask of you this year — at home, at school and online?

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

In Case 7, the Tribute Penny sits beside the Shekel of Tyre, the coin that paid Judas. Which coin served Caesar, and which betrayed God?

minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/in-their-hands

PRAYER

Lord, the coin carries the image of the one who made it. We carry yours. Help us give back to you our time, our gifts and our whole selves. Amen.