Lesson 3: Jesus and… Authority
Mark 12:13-17

13 *Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.* ***14*** *They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax[a] to Caesar or not?* ***15*** *Should we pay or shouldn't we?"*

*But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."****16*** *They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied.****17*** *Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.*

Intro Question:

How do you interact with rules? How about with people who have authority?

1. The Pharisees and Herodians were not common allies (meaning they didn't really like each other), but what did they come together to accomplish here?

2. In verse 14, the Pharisees and Herodians make several claims about Jesus. What do they say, and how would you put these in your own words to describe Jesus?

3. During this time, Rome had ruling authority over the Jewish people (Jesus and the Pharisees) and the imperial tax was paid only by non-Roman citizens. Why might this be a difficult answer for Jesus to provide?

4. A denarius is a Roman currency. Why do you think Jesus asks for them to bring him one rather than he or his disciples showing one out of their own pocket?
    a. Leader's note: (It is likely that Jesus and the disciples did not have a denarius (a day's wage) and that Jesus used this technique to strengthen his argument)

5. What might Jesus mean when he says, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."?

6. What are ways we can honor the authority we are under and honor God - when is that difficult/easy for a Christian?