



# MIND

session page

## Image Bearing

**Matthew 22:15-22 | Session 9.12**

### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

### Context

Begin by asking:

- When do you tend to think of the number of people and things you "owe" something to – and not just money, but time, energy and loyalty?
- What are the most common things to which many of us owe our money, time, energy, and loyalty?
- How do we determine the order of importance for these things?
- How do we prioritize when two loyalties come into conflict?
- In what ways do our priorities show themselves?

## Content

Read [Matthew 22:15-22](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- How can you tell what was behind the question they asked Jesus and what are they trying to accomplish before they even ask it?
- In what ways does this shape the way we see Jesus' response?
- Why do you think these leaders used this particular topic to try to trap Jesus?
- What aspects of this question have the potential to be divisive and explosive, even today?

Show an [image of a denarius](#), reminding the group that it contains images of Caesar, claiming he is both divine and "high priest," then ask:

- From your knowledge of Judaism, what would the Jews have found offensive (even repulsive) about this coin?
- Why, then, might it be significant that Jesus did not have a coin himself to show them?
- What really belongs to Caesar?
- When Jesus used the word "image," his Jewish hearers might have thought about [Genesis 1:26-27](#). In what ways might that have formed the way they heard Jesus' response?
- What question did Jesus really answer?
- Why doesn't he answer their original question... and why is Jesus' question more important?

## Closure

Continue by asking:

- There are several ways to interpret what Jesus says – how do you understand it?
- Given that Caesar in that time wasn't just a person, but a symbol of an occupying government, and a system that oppressed the Jewish people in their religion and everyday lives. If this scene were to play out today, what might "Caesar" represent?
- To what do we typically demonstrate our utmost loyalty and why?
- In what ways might our other loyalties align when we have God in the correct place?
- In what ways might our faith challenge people whose loyalties lie outside of it, and how might we reach them with the Gospel?

Close with prayer.

**Writer: Jon Parks**