

## Holy Tuesday: Following Jesus' pays tax

Song: [O Lord, all the world belongs to you:](#)

### Prayer

Reading [Luke 20:20-26](#)

### Reflection

- Jesus has arrived as King in Jerusalem, and
- he has driven the sellers out of the temple
- His authority has been questioned by the religious authorities
- and in turn he questions their authority
  - are they the tenants of the vineyard who even reject the son of the owner?
  
- So they were looking to trap him – so that they could arrest him
  
- The trap: who to pay taxes to?
  - In order to do so, they sweet talk him – suddenly eluding that he may be someone worthy to be listened to, but also challenging him to show his true colours
    - which they suspected would be against Caesar - the ruler of the Romans. An very good reason for an arrest
  - But Jesus sees through their motives – and goes to the heart of the matter.
  - To whom belongs the money ultimately? To Caesar
  - So: give the emperor's what belongs to him, and to God what belongs to God.
    - The unspoken question is what belongs to God
    - And the answer, as the religious authorities knew as well, is: our lives.
  
- When we are on the way following Jesus to the cross, we expect to be reminded of suffering, injustice and maybe a spiritual searching of Jesus
- But in this passage we see Jesus being challenged on his faith
  - How often have you been challenged on your faith?
  - In the work place?
  - Family or Friends?
  - At our places of leisure
- Our first desire would be to conform to the group we are in
  - and say what they would like to hear
- But Jesus does not do this
  - He conforms to God's view
  - And in doing so – he points to God.
  - It is really annoying to bring God in, in everyday life.
  - It is much easier to leave God in church
  - But God belongs in everyday life
  - And God asks us to point to him in everyday life
- We may find this difficult – as in the end no-one may like us anymore
  - As no one liked Jesus anymore – hence the cross
- Because when he speaks and we truly listen – the only real answer is the answer the religious authorities had: being astonished by his answer, they became silent

< silence >

**Prayer**

**Song: [I will offer up my life](#)**