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Jesus seems to read their hearts in their words. “Why are you trying to trap me?” How are they reacting? How am I reacting?

Then Jesus asks them to show him the coin for paying tax. They hand him a Roman coin. He asks them, “Whose portrait is this?” They answer, “Caesar’s.” What do I sense is happening?

Jesus tells them with authority: “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” What do I see on the face of Jesus? On the faces of those who confronted him? What is my reaction to Jesus’ words? How might Jesus be asking me to apply this maxim in my own life?

Everyone seems amazed. And they leave. How does this scene leave me feeling? To what can I especially relate or empathize?

#### 4. Affections

Jesus is looking at me. What do I sense he is telling my heart? Let me stay with Jesus as I listen to my heart.

#### 5. Resolution

As I continue listening to my heart, what concrete resolve can I make that will my prayerful reflection into some action that will change the way I live today?

#### 6. TOP-Off (Thanksgiving / Offering / Petition)

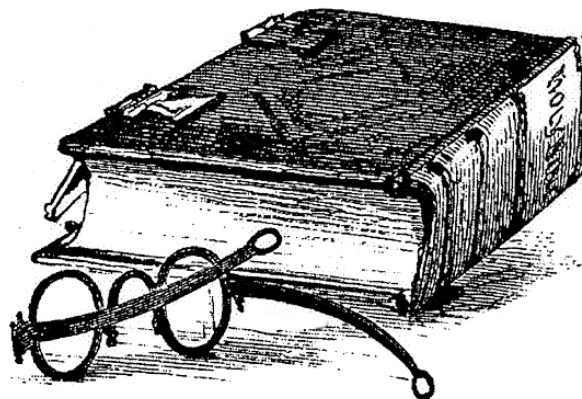
- a. Give thanksgiving to God for this experience of calm.
- b. Offer to God your resolution of .....
- c. Ask God to give you the grace to accomplish this.

#### 7. Spiritual Bouquet

Think of a phrase, word, or image that you can take with you throughout this day which will help you to stay focused on this experience and your resolution.

# PRAYER OF THE HEART

## A SALESIAN METHOD FOR MEDITATING



## Jesus and the Tax to Caesar

Matthew 22. 15-22

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**MEDITATION: A SALESIAN METHOD**

## 1. Remote Preparation

- a. Tranquility of spirit/center yourself
- b. Scripture reading

## 2. Immediate Preparation

- a. Remind yourself of God's presence
- b. Ask for God's inspiration

## 3. Considerations

- a. Take an incident in Jesus' life
- b. Use your imagination
- c. Place yourself in the scene (*Recreate the moment*)
- d. Follow the Spirit's lead
- e. Act like the bee (*Get as much nectar as possible*)

## 4. Affections

- a. Devout movements of the mind
- b. Devout movements of the heart

## 5. Resolution

- a. Be specific
- b. Must be do-able (*Is it practical, concrete, measurable?*)
- c. Practice a self-check (*Did you do what you resolved to do?*)

## 6. Top - Off

- a. Thanksgiving
- b. Offering
- c. Petition (*Ask God to see you through the day*)

## 7. Spiritual Bouquet

- a. Take a phrase or thought upon which to meditate
- b. Make the entire day an extension of prayer
- c. Integrate the experience of prayer and daily life

## I. Remote Preparation

- a. Tranquility of Spirit/center yourself (*Relaxation techniques*)
- b. Read passage from Matthew 22: 15-22

“Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, ‘You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.’ They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, ‘Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription is it?’ ‘Caesar’s,’ they said.

Then he said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God.” When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

## 2. Immediate Preparation

- a. Ask for a deeper awareness of God's Presence
- b. Ask for God's inspiration

## 3. Considerations

I am standing with Jesus and his disciples. I listen as they talk. A group of men approach us and speak to Jesus. They seem eager to confront him. Their words seem to have an “edge” to them.

After they talk about Jesus being a man of integrity and truthful about the ways of God, they come to the point of their confrontation. “What is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar?” What do I see on the faces? On the face of Jesus? How do I feel about what I see and hear?

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