

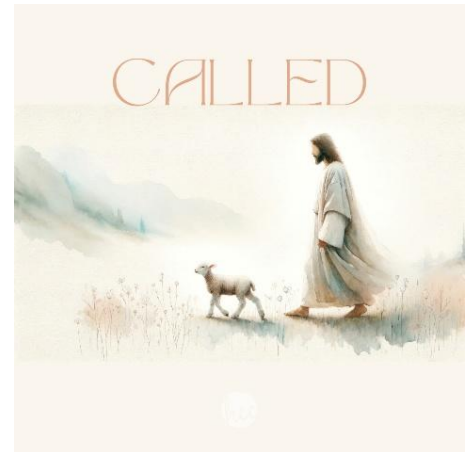
Life Group Study Notes

Date: 28th June 2026

Sermon: “Flip of a Coin”

Speaker: Brian Payne

Scriptures: Mark 12:13-17



Scripture Questions:

1. V13. Who were the Pharisees and the Herodians? Did they have opposing views on the occupying Romans? Why did they join together here and in Mark 3:6 and Mark 8:15?
2. V14. “Is it right to pay tax to Caesar or not”? Why was this potentially a dangerous political trap for Jesus?
3. V17. What does Jesus' famous command to "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" reveal about the relationship between earthly government and divine authority?
4. Caesar can claim his tax money, but Caesar cannot claim you. Why should our every breath, talent, and heartbeat bear the image of our Creator? Why should our total allegiance belong exclusively to God?
5. The concept of humans being made in God's image is introduced in Genesis 1:26-28. How are we made in His image? What are the attributes or characteristics that show we are made in his image?
6. The bible teaches that while the “Image of God” in humans was damaged and distorted by sin (like a cracked mirror or a smudged coin). Was it ever lost? How are we now restored back to God through Jesus?
7. Do you agree that “God's Image” in this context is a verb, a job description? Psalm 8. How does this Psalm show us to be God's imagers?

Personal Questions:

- How do we balance our civic responsibilities (like paying taxes or obeying laws) with our ultimate allegiance to God?
- V16. Whose image is stamped on you? How do you reflect the image of God in your own life.

Prayer:

Our wonderful father God. Thank You for reminding us that before we belong to any country, culture, or earthly power, we belong entirely to You. Forgive us for the times we give our best energy, time, and devotion to the "Caesars" of this world, while offering You only what is left over. Help us to remember our true identity every single day. We pray that You would polish the cracked mirrors of our hearts so that Your image, Your love, Your justice, and Your creativity shines clearly through us to everyone we meet.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.