



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022



Take your Pulse

If you were to praise God for something today, what would it be?

If you were to cry out to God for something unfair today, what would it be?

Today's Reading

Matthew Chapter 22

Pharisees (a group of learned teachers who interpreted the law very strictly), Herodians (a group of people aligned politically with Herod, the Roman puppet king over Israel), the Sadducees (a group of Jewish people who did not believe in the resurrection), all take their shot at Jesus. One group after another falls, though, not to a battle of strength, but a battle of wits. This hillbilly prophet from the backwoods of Nazareth in Galilee has demonstrated he can outsmart any of the ruling Jerusalem elite. And for those elite, this is a scary time. For the crowd, which they normally have subdued to their whims, are now chanting for the nobody from Nazareth. And with Rome's ever close eye watching, any riot could bring in the soldiers. This is the conflict that is rising as the author brings us closer to Jesus' crucifixion.



Start the Thinking

Our currency is not too different from ancient Rome. The heads of famous political leaders still mark our coins and bills. So what then is God's? And how do we give to God what is God's?



Conversing with God

God of the living, even in the mystery of death you are present, and even when what comes next doesn't look like what we know, you are there promising that there is something next, a kingdom in your glory, a kingdom that will be unlike anything we can imagine. Give our faith the hope we need to trust this promise always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen