

Children's Liturgical Prayer

Introduction

Today is World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is a very special day and is celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world! Today the Pope reminds us that God sends us all out on an important mission to share God's love with everyone. This is the instruction that Jesus first shared with the people during his time on earth. In today's Gospel, we hear about some religious leaders who were very unhappy with Jesus' message. They were annoyed that people were beginning to follow Jesus' teaching rather than theirs and worried they would lose their position of importance. In an attempt to stop Jesus the leaders came up with a crafty plan. They tried to trap Jesus by asking a question that if he got wrong, would get him into a lot of trouble. Let's listen to the reading now. Pay attention to Jesus' response.

The Gospel according to St Matthew 22:15-21

The leaders wanted to set a trap for Jesus. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we know that you are an honest man and teach the truth. You are not afraid of what other people think about you. Tell us then, is it right to pay tax to Caesar or not?'

But Jesus, aware of their trickery, said 'Show me the coin used for paying tax.' They brought him a coin and he asked them, 'Whose image is on it?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. Then Jesus said to them, 'So give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.' When they heard this they were amazed. They left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Reflection

The leaders in the reading were mean. Paying tax to the Emperor Caesar was the law. Tax is the name given to the money given to the ruler of a country. Caesar used this tax to pay for his growing empire. If Jesus had suggested that the people didn't need to pay Caesar's tax, he would have ended up in jail.

Jesus' reply to the leaders' question was very clever. He asked them to tell him whose image was on the coin used to pay the tax. The image on the coin was of Caesar. This let people know, that although they may use the coin, the coin really belonged to Caesar.

So, when Jesus told the leaders to give the coin to Caesar and to give to God what is God's, he was cleverly saying that God was greater even than the Emperor Caesar! Because the whole world and everything in it belongs to God, the creator of heaven and earth.

In the Bible we learn that all people are made in the image of God; we are his children, and we all belong to God our Father and we are precious to him. Because everyone is made in the image of God, we are to treat ourselves and each other with special care. When we show love and respect for one another, we show our love and respect for God. We give back to God, what belongs to God.

Today is World Mission Sunday. Today churches like ours around the world celebrate the fact that everyone on earth belongs to God. How awesome is that! Today, World Mission Sunday, billions of followers of Jesus are gathering in churches on every continent to pray and think about the mission that Jesus left us, his followers - to share God's love with everyone, everywhere.

Let's think about ways we can do that today.

ACTIVITY – We are all made in the image of God. Please see next page

Closing Prayer

May all Children
In the World
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. Amen

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How can you share God's love today?



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