

Entering the Passion of Jesus – Lent Three
Time for Self-Reflection
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“But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”
— Matthew 22:18-21 (with references to Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12:13-17, Luke 20:20-26)

Take some time to look at this artwork and place yourself “in the picture” by choosing any character in the painting. Contemplate the following questions:



What is your chosen character noticing in this moment? What do they hear? What do they see? What do they smell?

What can you imagine they are thinking? How might they be feeling?

Why are they there? What can you imagine about what they were doing just before this moment, or what they might have done afterwards in response to being involved in this moment?

What would you have thought, felt, and done if you could paint yourself into the scene?

Spend some time praying this prayer from our worship:

I come to this time of prayer to encounter the teachings of Jesus. Many wanted to destroy him for these teachings, and sometimes I too find that his words challenge me, calling me to more than I think I can be or do.

Forgive me, God.

Let me be shaped into a new person,
made in the mold of justice,
not the stamp of Caesar's coin.

You enter the story of my life over and over.
May I have the courage to enter fully into the story
of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

And remember this assurance from our worship:

Know this: There are people whose lives have been changed completely by this story of love and passion.

Transformation is possible.

You are forgiven and freed,
encouraged and loved

by the Creator who wants you to live fully.
Amen.

My thoughts and prayers: