

Luke 20:20-26

20 So they watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said and then to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. **21** So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. **22** Is it lawful for us to pay tribute to Caesar or not?" **23** But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, **24** "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "Caesar's." **25** He said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." **26** And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said, and being amazed by his answer they became silent.

II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

1 As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. **3** Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. **4** He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. **5** Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? **13** But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. **14** For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **15** So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. **16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, **17** comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.