



Dirty Old Coins, LLC

**Luke 20:20-26 DENARIUS** (see also Matt. 22:21, Mark 12:17) *“So they watched Him, and **sent spies who pretended to be righteous**, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they [could] deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor. They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of Yahveh in truth. “Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” (23) But **He detected their trickery** and said to them, (24) (written in red)“Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to Yah the things that are Yah’s.” And they were unable to catch Him in a saying in the presence of the people; and being amazed at His answer, they became silent.”* When looking at these verses most people focus on the wrong area. Yeshua was not discussing just money here. If Yeshua agreed to pay taxes to Caesar then the spies would accuse Him of being a traitor to Israel because of His support of the Roman occupation. If He says no, then the spies would go to the local authorities and accuse Him of teaching the people to disobey Roman law, and therefore have Him charged. He was pointing out to the people that they had spies among them. The very fact that these spies had a Roman denarius should have revealed to the people that these men were breaking the Rabbinical law. His accusers, in fact, were the ones breaking the law. The Jews could not use Roman coins because they had the idol (picture) of Caesar on them (Deut. 4:15-16). The Roman coins were always exchanged at the Temple area for Hebrew shekels that had no image on them. Yeshua was pointing out to the Jews present that the Pharisees had sent spies among them to check Him out to see if He truly was the Messiah.

(Mar 26/16) Jerry Hennig