

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.”



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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 Judaist spies among them. The parable had nothing to do with money. The very fact that these spies had a Roman denarius should have revealed to the people that these men were breaking the Rabbinical law which all the Jews were very familiar with.

His accusers, in fact, were the ones breaking their Talmudic law. The Jews could not use Roman coins because they had the idol (picture) of Caesar on them.

**Deut. 4:15-16** “Therefore, watch out for yourselves! Since you did not see a shape of any kind on the day ADONAI spoke to you in Horev from the fire, 16 **do not become corrupt and make yourselves a carved image having the shape of any figure — not a representation of a human being, male or female**”,

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.

After Yeshua said, give to Yah what is Yah's, the people missed the obvious question that should have been asked: "What is Yah's?" I believe Yeshua would have explained it this way: **"Caesar's image is on the coin, so it belongs to him....But Who's image is on you?"**

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