

Made to go 'round

¹² Then they looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

¹³ Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.

¹⁴ They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay or shouldn't we?" But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."

¹⁶ They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

And they were amazed at him.

Who is the I am becoming?

How have my values changed? Why?

. determines destination.

Jesus' attitude:

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

The of my life determines the end of my life.

. your old self... to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Eph.4:22-24

Never look down on anyone. But look back with forgiveness. Look forward with hope. Look around with compassion. And, most important, look up with thanksgiving.

What are the I am asking?

When the is clear, is easy.

1 Peter 3:14-16

Whose is the I am bearing?

God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image... Genesis 1:26-27

My Prayer Points, for the week starting 22 May 2016

For personal reflection, or group discussion

1. Harvard researchers asked thousands of adults to compare their values and attitudes now, with how they were 10 years ago. What are some of the changes you see in your own life? Do you like those changes?
2. What are some of the factors that have helped (or forced) you to change?
3. Why do people sometimes find their lives heading in unexpected and unhealthy directions? Why can some people be helped to change, and some can't?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. Why is the first statement in v15 most important? We are also told in v15 to "be prepared". How can we prepare for tough questions? This same verse ends with an instruction about attitude. What is this attitude, and why can it be more important than the verbal answers we give? Will your answers and attitude always be successful (v16)? Why or why not?
5. Read Jesus' words in Mark 12:17. What are some ways that we can give back to Caesar? What are some ways that we can give back to God?
6. How involved should we be in the world of politics and finance?
7. We are made in the image of God, and we openly bear His image. What should people see when they look at us?