

Lesson IX.

A DAY OF QUESTIONS

August 30, 1914

Matthew 22 : 15-22—Memory Verses, 16, 17.

Golden Text—Render therefore unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's ; and unto God the things that are God's.—Matthew 22 : 21 (Rev. Ver.).



15 Then went the Phar'isees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herod'ians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man : for thou regardest not the person of men.

17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou ? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Cæ'sar, or not ?

18 But Je'sus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites ?

19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription ?

21 They say unto him, Cæ'sar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Cæ'sar the things which are Cæ'sar's ; and unto God the things that are God's.

22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Jesus was in the temple one day, a number of men came near Him and began talking with Him. They pretended to be the friends of Jesus, but they really were no friends at all.

The men said: "Master, we know that Thou art true and brave. Thou art not afraid to speak the truth." So these false men began to praise and flatter Jesus.

Then they said: "What thinkest Thou? Is it right for us to give tax money to Cæsar, or not? Tell us."

Cæsar was the great emperor of the Roman people, who ruled over almost the whole world. Palestine, the land in which Jesus lived, was under Cæsar's power. He lived in a palace in Rome, far away from Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, and made the people send him part of their money every year to buy himself chariots and horses and kingly robes and dishes of gold and dainty food. The Jews hated him because he was a foreign ruler, and because he treated them harshly.

The men who spoke to Jesus, waited for an answer. They thought to themselves: "Now we have made trouble for Jesus! If

He says: 'No, do not pay the tax money to Cæsar. It is wrong,' the soldiers will take Him prisoner. Cæsar will punish Him. If He says: 'Yes, pay the tax money to Cæsar. It is right,' the people will be angry. The people hate Cæsar and the tax money. They will seize Jesus and hurt Him. At last we have brought trouble to Jesus," and they were glad.

But Jesus understood their wickedness. He could look right down into their hearts and see the evil thoughts and desires which were there. He said: "Why do ye tempt Me? Show Me the tax money."

They brought him a silver coin called a penny, but which was really worth about 16 cents of our money. On it was stamped a picture of Cæsar and his name.

Jesus said, "Whose is this image and name? They answered, "Cæsar's."

Jesus said, "Pay then to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's." Then Jesus added, "And give to God the things that are God's."

The Bible tells us that man was made in the image of God. God made man, and man belongs to Him. Jesus' words mean: "We