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# Weekly Word

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for the week leading to  
October 18, 2009

Mark 12:13-27

Read Mark 12:13-27. Note any questions you may have.

## Encounter

Are the Pharisees and Herodians typically allies? What does their common questioning suggest about the situation Jesus finds himself in? What is ironic about their flattery of Jesus in v. 14?

Does Jesus answer the question about taxes? Is it a complete answer, or does it suggest new questions? Do you think Jesus asks for a coin because he doesn't himself have one? In the translation you are using does Jesus touch the coin or not? What difference might the answer to that question make?

Whose image is stamped on human beings? Whose image is on the coin? Romans often treated the Caesars as divine. How do these things affect how we read the story of the coin?

Levirate marriage was the practice of brothers bearing children on their dead brother's behalf—which did not preclude them from having their own wives, nor was this understood to be polygamy. This practice had fallen into disuse by Jesus' day, but this example is used by the Sadducees to raise a logical problem with the theory of resurrection. What presupposition of the Sadducees does Jesus challenge? Does Jesus say that in the resurrection those who are raised become angels? Does Jesus reveal much about what the resurrection of the dead is actually like?

Read Exodus 3:1-6. Do you think Jesus is suggesting that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are already raised?



CLOSER TO GOD - CLOSER TO EACH OTHER

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“ The Sadducees considered the Mosaic directives alone as binding and rejected what they perceived to be theological innovations. Consequently, they did not believe in a resurrection since it does not appear in the Pentateuch. Their attitude may be captured in the hymn to honor ancestors in (the apocryphal book) Sirach 44:1-23: The only immortality one can hope for is having posterity and being remembered.

DAVID E. GARLAND, MARK

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# Reflect

Make it Simple stewardship theme for October 18: Facing the Truth

Have you ever regretted how you spent some money? Have you ever been unexpectedly blessed by how you spent some money? What did you learn from these experiences? How much do you consider your faith when you make spending decisions?



What picture of heaven do you have in your head? What role does God play in your vision of heaven? Does Jesus' answer to the Sadducees challenge any parts of your vision?

Take some time to let each person write at least one "Act" suggestion (below) based on this week's reading. Share your suggestions.

## Act

Continue in faithful use of daily devotions.

1.

2.

This week I intend to ...

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**Next Week**

Mark 12:28-34

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Closer to God—Closer to Each Other