

TODAY'S GOSPEL WOULD BE totally hilarious if it weren't for the fact that these two bitter enemies, the Pharisees and the Herodians, have teamed up to get Jesus put to death!

IN OUR GOSPEL, WE SEE THE Pharisees, the self-proclaimed defenders of the Mosaic Law, casually producing a coin with Tiberius Caesar's image engraved on it. The inscription on this very coin proclaims Tiberius to be a god! All carriers of this coin are directly violating the First Commandment, and the Law of Moses demands that they be immediately expelled from the community and shunned for life! It is the height of irony that the very ones who set out to trap Jesus, wind up trapping themselves!

PICTURE JESUS SIMPLY RAISING His eyebrows and tilting His Head slightly as He looks the Pharisees right in the eye! Hypocrites, indeed! We'd probably pump our fist and yell in the Pharisees' faces, "Gotcha!"

BUT, JESUS IS SO COOL! HE'S always mindful of His Divine mission, and He takes this opportunity to further establish His Father's Kingdom on earth. Jesus reminds His adversaries, the crowd of onlookers, and, especially, each one of us today, He reminds us to be sure that we give to God the things that we owe God! AND WHAT EXACTLY DO WE OWE to God? We owe God our gratitude and all our love.

BUT, OUR DAYS ARE SO filled with work, cleaning, cooking, family, friends, with IPHONES, tweets, texts, Candy Crush, television, and on and on. How do we find time to pay to God the gratitude and the love that we owe Him?

EACH MORNING, AS WE GET OUT bed, we can be sure to pray from our heart: "Dear Lord, I offer you this day." Frequently, during the day, we can pray from our heart: "I love you, Lord Jesus."

LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BE OUR Guide and may He help us to pray frequently during the day and let us know what we should say. Perhaps, on the way up in the elevator, or while waiting in traffic, or as we sit down to a meal, we can pray from our heart: "Spirit of the Living God, please fall afresh on me."

OFTEN, DURING THE COURSE OF the day, let us acknowledge the Presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the temple of our own heart by silently shouting out, "Glory!"

AS WE GET INTO BED EACH NIGHT, may we be sure to pray from the depths our heart: "Thank you for all your love, Lord Jesus, thank you for all your love!"