Gospel Matthew 22:15-21 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Pharisees went off
and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.
They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man
and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.
And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion,
for you do not regard a person's status.
Tell us, then, what is your opinion:
Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"
Knowing their malice, Jesus said,
"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin that pays the census tax."
Then they handed him the Roman coin.
He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"
They replied, "Caesar's."
At that he said to them,
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God."

1. What words, phrases, thoughts struck you as you read this Gospel and why?

2. What in this passage comforted you? What in this passage challenged you?

3. *You are not concerned with anyone's opinion.* Whose opinions matter to me? When have I let the opinions of others prevent me from doing what is right?

4. *Why are you testing me?* When have I tried to test God? When has my faith been tested?

5. What is one way that God's grace came to you this past month?