

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 12:13-27



Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.
Psalm 65:1

Praising:

We turn to Christ anew
who hear his call today,
his way to walk, his will pursue,
his word obey.

To serve him as our king
and of his kingdom learn,
from sin and every evil thing
to him we turn.

Reading:

Mark 12:13-27

Taxes and the resurrection

Jesus ability to answer trick questions leaves everyone amazed. These aren't spontaneous or genuine enquiries from people who want to know the answers but carefully prepared curve-balls intended to trap Jesus in his own words. If he slips up on the paying of taxes, he will find himself on the wrong side of both the Pharisees and

the Herodians who pose the query – not to mention the occupying Roman authorities who levy everyone. If he slips up on the Sadducees' riddle about resurrection and marriage, he will be taking religious sides in one of the most bitterly contested theological arguments of the day. For us, the penetrating logic and insight of Jesus' replies points to the depth of his divine wisdom as the only source of true knowledge. For Jesus' enemies, it makes him a problem to get rid of.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord when it comes to questions

- help us to tell the sincere from the insincere, the genuine from the cynical
- give us confidence in the words and teaching, the principles and values of scripture
- fill us with love for the person asking, love rather than impatience or irritation!

Father: it's easier to ignore some people than engage with them. Guide me to the conversations you want me to have, and so lead me and others to a fuller understanding of your truth.
Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 08 December 2015