



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

JUNE 18, 2023

*You are a valued member of our church family
and a gift to us!*

PRAYER - STEPHANIE

Lord thank you for embedding us with Your image and choosing us! Holy Spirit may we continue to daily discover what it means to belong to God. May we offer ourselves (body, soul and spirit) to God as our spiritual act of worship and sing of gratitude for this love. Lead us, guide us, teach us how best to bear Your image as we go about our days. May you be honoured and lifted high in and through us! In Jesus' matchless and precious name, Amen.



Celebrating and honouring our graduates and children last Sunday

JOIN US IN PRAYER

"He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..."
Malachi 4:6

** Pray for the fathers and father figures among us... that the Lord would tenderize their hearts towards their children. Pray also as we celebrate Father's Day, that the children would rise to uniquely bless their fathers and the father figures in their lives.

** Pray for Katia Moreau, who has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is having surgery on June 27th and we have set up a meal train for her so that we can love and practically support her and her husband Neil.

WORSHIP IN SONG

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

*Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise*

*Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee*

*Take my voice and let me sing
Always only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee*

*Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose*

*Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne*

*Take my love my Lord I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever only all for Thee*

STAYING CONNECTED • A WEEKLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SERMON - PASTOR SCOTT



Good to Great: The Money Shot Matthew 22:15-22

“Image is everything!” Have you ever heard that statement before? I’ve heard it many, many times. Actually we see it displayed all around us every day. And we strive so hard to present ourselves in such a way that others will admire, or envy us. We have bought into the idea that image is everything. It colours how we shop, how we eat, what we drive, where we vacation and who we hang out with. This idea of presenting a certain image, very easily creeps into our ordinary lives too. How we appear to others is often so important that we will go to near impossible lengths to achieve, or portray that certain image.

But what if image IS everything? What if that’s actually correct? Well, I’ve got news for you; it is! But not in the way that we typically interpret that phrase.

Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. They are asking the question as a way to trap Jesus. These Pharisees are not asking Jesus if it is right to pay taxes. Oh no, they are asking if it is right to pay taxes, specifically, to Caesar.

The Jewish community was required to pay two taxes: the temple tax, which all good Jews would be obligated to pay, and a civic tax, which ultimately went to Rome. The Pharisees are not asking Jesus about the temple tax, but rather about the civic tax. Many devout Jews thought that it was unlawful to pay money to Caesar, because he considered himself to be a god. Paying money to him was seen

by many Jews as a form of worship and, therefore, idolatry.

Let’s See the Coin

Jesus knows what they are actually up to – He goes so far as to call them hypocrites for trying to trap Him – and then He instructs them to bring Him the coin used to pay the tax. He then asks them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

Now let’s be very clear. Jesus is not asking them, “Whose image is this?”, because He’s not sure. He knows exactly whose image is on the coin but, I believe He asks them as a way to jog their memory of the things they have studied and learned. These Pharisees would have known the law of Moses extremely well. The law of Moses is contained in the first five books of the Old Testament known as the Pentateuch. In Genesis chapter 1, when God makes human kind, He says that they are made “in the image of God.”

That word “image” is key. Image denotes ownership. Just as the image of Caesar is stamped on the coin, so too, God’s image is stamped on us – embedded into us. And so, when Jesus tells them to “give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” He is telling them that, because God’s image is stamped on them, they belong to God. Therefore, they – and we – are to give ourselves to God to be used by Him as He sees fit.

May God help us to give ourselves to Him fully.
Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 7 p.m. Youth Night
Thursday 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Harvest Food Bank
Women’s Bible Study 7 p.m.

WAYS TO GIVE

Drop-Off Cash or Cheque during office hours
Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

E-Transfer - Can be set up through your bank and emailed to mcivor@mcivorchurch.com.

Direct Deposit - Contact church office to request the forms to set up automatic monthly donations.