

IT'S A TRAP

Matthew 22:15-22

What is it?

Approaching God with an _____

How do we want to _____?

Jesus is _____

Leave _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

I can't help, for the moment, to think of the Book of Job. In that book Job is continually encountering the traps of "friends" and wondering what God is doing or not. I think of the ending of the book of Job (from 38-42), where God enters in dramatically and asks multiple questions about our own understanding and the ordering of the universe and the work of His hands. There is an appropriate humility that is forgotten too easily in our own mastery. Jesus' first temptation in the wilderness was to make bread out of the stones. To trust in the work of his hands, his own power. Reflect on Job or on Matthew 4:1-11 – on our own lack of understanding or our own temptation to power.

Reflect:

How does our lack of understanding invite a temptation to exercise power? How does our temptation to power demonstrate a lack of understanding?

How have you approached God with an agenda – perhaps even a good, right, holy sort of agenda – and invited the use of power to make that happen in the world? Consider how we pray, somewhat frequently, for God's will to be done among us – are we open to that, or are we asking God for our will to be done? How do we know the difference?

Respond:

God's way is always bigger, broader and better. What makes us settle for less than that?

Remember:

"When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away." Matthew 22:22