

## For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 22:15-22

*The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, RCL*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>**Tell** [εἰπὲ, **eipè** / εἰπὸν, **eipòn**] us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>**Show** [ἐπιδείξατε, **epideíxate**] me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “**Give** [ἀπόδοτε, **apódote**] therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. [NRSV89]

### 22:17

εἰπὲ, **eipè**; vb:

εἰπὸν, **eipòn**; vb: 2<sup>nd</sup> aor act **imperative** 2<sup>nd</sup> pers sg from λέγω:

translations: **tell** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **give** [NJB], **dí** [IAdNT]

### 22:19

ἐπιδείξατε, **epideíxate**; vb: aor act **imperative** 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl from ἐπιδείκνυμι:

translations: **show** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], also **mostrad** [IAdNT], not translated in Filson.

### 22:21

ἀπόδοτε, **apódote**; vb: 2<sup>nd</sup> aor act **imperative** 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl from ἀποδίδωμι:

translations: **give** [NRSV89, NGEINT, NRSVue], **give back** [NIV11; Filson], also **pay** [NJB; Albright & Mann], **render** [ESV, NKJV], **repay** [NAB], **pagad** [IAdNT]

Albright & Mann: “The Greek here (**apódote**) is different from the ‘pay’ (**didonai**) of vs. 17 and has the sense of giving back what is due. The civil rulers therefore receive taxes as a due, not a gift. [p. 273.]

Filson: “The coin is his [i.e., Caesar’s]; give it back (**ἀπόδοτε**) to him. ‘Pay’ the tax. [p. 235.]

Levine & Brettler: “Jesus asks the interlocutors to determine for themselves a day’s wage.” [JANT, p. 51.]

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