

OCTOBER 19, 2014



# TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 45:1, 4-6

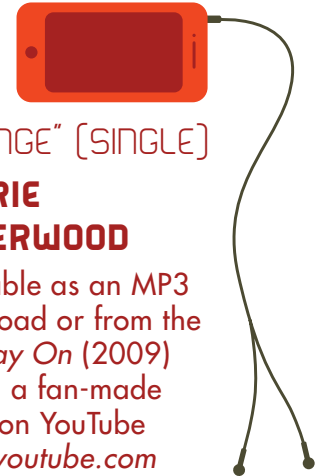
PSALM 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5B

MATTHEW 22:15-21

## REFLECTION

Look out, Jesus, it's a trap! The religious leaders send two groups who are fighting with each other to ask Jesus the question about whether or not to pay taxes. They want him to get in the middle of the fight and whoever he agrees with they'll be able to accuse him of something. Jesus is tricky though and manages to completely bypass the trap. He brings the conversation to a higher level. "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's." What is God's? Everything! The coin may have Caesar's picture on it but the work that earned it, the person who holds it, and the merchant or tax collector who will receive it, all have God as their beginning and their end. Even the pagan king Cyrus in the First Reading is part of God's plan. Jesus reminds this argumentative bunch that the petty concerns of power and privilege really have no place in the heart of a person if that person's goal is to seek God.



"CHANGE" [SINGLE]

**CARRIE  
UNDERWOOD**

Available as an MP3  
download or from the  
CD *Play On* (2009)

Watch a fan-made  
video on YouTube  
[www.youtube.com  
/watch?v=Y77  
-Wf3YOZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y77-Wf3YOZE)

## ACTION

Start a "change the world" jar. All the loose change you have or find can go in the jar. When it's full, donate it to a charity that helps *change* the world! Even the smallest of actions can make a big difference.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What do you give to God already? Is there a skill or talent that you have been given by God that you use for the glory of God? If not, is there something you excel at that could be offered to God?
- Have you ever been stuck in the middle of an argument? Usually you can't win. If you choose one person's side the other will be mad. Often both sides are a little right and a little wrong. What could you do differently the next time you find yourself stuck in the middle?