

# Lent devotions

## READ:

Mark 12:1-17 (click to open link)

## REFLECT:

Ownership is a twisted, convoluted subject today just as it has always been. How much stuff do we own? How much stuff owns us? Do we own our mistakes and our failings? If we deny them do they ultimately end up owning us?

Ownership means responsibility, ownership means expectations and ownership means a visible marker indicating wealth, status or power. Ownership is something we claim, accept or call our "own". Ownership defines us.

If we're given a job or a responsibility, whether we want it or not, do we not own that? We know the consequences of not owning it or blowing it off. They will not be good. We stand to suffer the wrath or feel the disapproval of the boss, spouse, child, parent or whomever assigned us the task. And why shouldn't we, we accepted it after all. But those are the things we've accepted. How about the things we accept as inherent to being a good human?

Things like decency, morality, ethics, kindness, compassion, sympathy and on and on are just part of us, aren't they? Aren't they?

Jesus said to give to God what belonged to God. If we accept and we recognize we are God's children then just as our children belong to us and we belong to our parents we belong to God. And just as our children owe their existence to us, so we owe our existence to our parents and on and on back to the Adam and Eve created by God. So, if we are of God's making, then all that good stuff above is part of us, right?

Finally, just as ownership of our stuff or our actions means something, so too does God's ownership of us mean something. More than something, it really means everything. Belonging to God means what is ours is His.

All our abilities, all our hopes, all our traits, all our actions and even all our shortcomings; they all go back to God. We all are fearfully and wonderfully made, and made by God.

Do we foul up? Of course, and we should own it, just as God knows we are His and forgives our miss-steps. Do we do good? Yes, and we should give thanks to God for our ability to do so. After all, we come from Him, we are owned by Him.

## RESPOND:

Today, take a minute to celebrate and declare you are God's. Give thanks for all you have and all you do. Pledge to continue, or begin, to live your life in God's name. Affirm His ownership of you and recognize His love for you which surpasses even the love you have for your own children or your own family. Do this, surrender your life and ownership to Him and experience its fullness.