

## Matthew 22:15-40

### The Examination of the King Part 2

Passover week – Lambs being slain – before slain – inspected lamb without blemish

A) Jesus entered Jerusalem – triumphal entry – cleansing of the temple – cursing of the fig tree.

B) Next day – He enters the city again – temple courts where he is going to be confronted by various groups of religious leaders.

C) Unknowingly, they were fulfilling the prophecy of Exodus 12 which says that before the Passover lamb was sacrificed,

1) it was to be inspected and observed for five days in order to make sure it was free of blemish or disease.

D) So, too, before the Passover Lamb of God was sacrificed on the Cross, He underwent a period of scrutiny and examination by the most brutal inspectors of all:

1) The Sanhedrin, the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Herodians—His enemies.

Last week we looked at his examination by the Sanhedrin Ruling religious counsel made up of 71 Elders : #1 A question about Authority

Today we are going to see how the Pharisees and Herodians come together to #2 A question about Responsibility –

B) Then the Sadducees will bring a question about eternity

C) Finally a Scribe will bring a question about priority

D) They are trying to catch him in a teaching they can construe as blasphemy, which was a capital offense.

1) Or at the very least, they would like to discredit him before the people. This is what lies behind the three attempts to trap Jesus that we find in Matthew 22

D) After all of that Jesus is going to ask them a question about Identity.

#1 A question about Authority

A) By who's authority are you doing these things? – Jesus says – question for You – JOHN?

B) We don't know..... Neither will I answer your question

1) He knew they knew and were just refusing to answer him.

D) Men don't believe because they can't believe (all can) Men don't believe because they refuse to believe!

1) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge because they have rejected knowledge.

So after the question about His Authority from the Sanhedrin – next came the Pharisees/ the Herodians.

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk.

16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying,

{An unholy alliance – Pharisees were the conservative party – they strongly resented Roman rule in every form over the nation

The Herodians – embraced Roman rule – and Rome's appointment over them – the family of Herod – thus their name the Herodians

It was an interesting combination to say the least.

➤ But political and philosophical enemies will often unite in opposition to Jesus Christ.

So these two groups come together and ask V.16 “Teacher, we know that You are true, {interesting – flattery} and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. {not a man pleaser – all true statements – but stated as a set up to this question} 17 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

The Pharisees and Herodians thought they had Jesus cornered.

A) If He said, “Yes, pay taxes to Caesar,” that would be a most unpopular sentiment.

B) You see, Caesar claimed to be God, and the Jews felt that by paying taxes to Caesar,

1) they were in essence acknowledging him as such.

C) On the other hand, if Jesus said, “No, don’t pay taxes,” **He could be arrested for tax evasion and political rebellion.** –

1) A dangerous insurrectionist.

D) So they think they have him cornered

18 But Jesus **perceived their wickedness,** {sees right through the flattery – the wrong hearts – he always does} and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? 19 Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?”

21 They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” {Each Roman Caesar would print money with his picture on it.} **{They weren’t self absorbed at all ☺ -**

**Putting their image on the money was Caesar’s way of saying: See this money – you can use it but it belongs to me.**

**Jesus is going to pick up on that idea:**

And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

**Answer: Who’s image is on the coin? Who’s image is on you?**

A) This coin was made in the image of Caesar – So give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.

B) **The word Render = give back to** – the coin belongs to Caesar – so give it to him – his image is on it

C) but you have been made in the image of God. –

**Give yourself back to God** – who made you –

1) Imago Dei – Man uniquely God’s **IMAGE made by God and for God!**

**D) Wonder how our lives might change if we woke up every day – and thought that**

1) I have been made in the Image of God – made by Him and for Him –

E) **SIN RUINED THAT relationship** – So he sent Jesus to Redeem – buy you back - **bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

1) Twice His – Made you and He bought you – Give yourself back to God

**People today act like animals because they don’t realize the uniqueness of their creation.**

A) Imago Dei- Made in God’s image

B) Believers miss out on the abundant life – living for self – Fail to realize high price bought with

1) **Your life is not YOUR OWN – bought precious....**

C) We belong to God – We are to be image bearers of Him – lost world

**The religious leaders were hoping for an either or – Is it Caesar or God?**

A) **Jesus said it is both** - The first part of Jesus’ answer reinforced Caesar’s authority, even in such an unpopular matter as taxes.

B) The second part drew limits.

1) Although the state has a God-given and therefore legitimate authority, the authority of God is greater.

**C) Called to obey Authorities and pray for leaders – Romans 13**

1) Except when they ask us to do something that goes against scripture

D) Our greater allegiance has to be with the Lord

**Against the law to call certain lifestyles a sin – Sorry can’t do that – have to remain true to the Bible.**

A) Only way people bound in a lifestyle of sin – be set free

B) If the law says – Can’t have a Bible or worship God – sorry not happening

C) So we are called to give to Caesar what belongs to him – God what belongs to Him namely our hearts!

22 When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

**#3 A question about eternity. – The Sadducees**

23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24 saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now

there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup> Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> Last of all the woman died also. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. <sup>31</sup> But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, <sup>32</sup> *‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?* God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” <sup>33</sup> And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.

**A)The Sadducees were leaders who came from the upper class of society**

**B) They didn’t believe in Angels or miracles or life after death – No Resurrection**

1)They were wealthy and they were worldly

**C) Hedonist – they lived for the moment – they were indulgent - No hope of anything beyond this life.**

**D)The Bible says the Opposite for us – Believers in Jesus – we have a Hope**

1) Heaven – eternity being with Jesus

**1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

**E)Our hope becomes a motivator**

**Now The question they asked Jesus was based on an old Levitical law**

**A)that was in place to ensure a family name and the inheritance involved would stay in the family**

**B)if you had an older brother who got married but died without children,**

1)you as a younger brother were to take on his wife as your wife and **the first child** you had would be your dead brother’s heir.

**C)now can you imagine the discussion this would cause in Jewish families before a brother got married.**

1)The younger brother would say, “wait a second, you want to marry who.” –

**D)Imagine the scrutiny – Younger bro is thinking he might end up with her –**

1)“Bro – you can’t marry her – she is one of those girls with a great personality.”

**E)Sorry bro I am not feeling it**

**Now they did have an out – if you were the younger brother and you decided that you didn’t want to marry this girl**

**A)She would take you down to the elders and say – He refuses to meet his duty of raising an heir – is that true? – Yes**

**B)The woman would be permitted to take your sandal and spit in your face**

1)You would get sort of labeled – ( **mark on the mailbox** ) – but everyone would know you were the one-sandal-spit-in-the-face dude.

**C)Ruth Ch. 4 exact scene unfolds– remember Boaz was not the first Kinsmen redeemer in line – the guy who was refused – Ruth took his shoe -**

**So their question: One woman goes through 7 brothers**

**A)Imagine if you are bro #4 or 5 – every brother before you marries this woman dies – Black widow**

**B)#5 You are thinking – I will pass – I will become the one-sandal-spit-in-the-face guy!**

1)At the very least – you are going to let the dog taste the eggs in the morning

**C)this girl has had seven husbands- When she is “resurrected” who will her husband be.”**

1)Like they are going to be arguing in heaven over her – You had her last you take her

**He tells them they error because of two major problems**

**A)You don’t know the scriptures and You don’t know the power of God**

**B)People get hung up on things – don’t know God’s power – they want to limit God by making him like man -**

C) This thinking that leads people to ask those dumb questions today “Can God make a rock so big, He can’t carry it?”

1) The person that asks that doesn’t understand the power of God

C) There is nothing God can’t carry.

1) So no He cannot create something like that

D) But There are things God CAN’T do – He can’t sin – He can’t deny His nature

**So Jesus silenced them with a simple double rebuke: (1) The power of God. (2) They did not know the Scriptures**

A) He quoted from Exodus 3:6: **“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”**

B) God appeared to Moses – the Burning Bush – Identified himself as the I AM – NOT I WAS

1) The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

C) Jesus replied on their terms, referring to the Scriptures they accepted, PENTATUCH

1) and showed that even the Scriptures they followed contained **a doctrine of the afterlife.**

D) Jesus explained that God is “not the God of the dead, but of the living

E) He meant that by the time these words were spoken to Moses, the three great Hebrew patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) had long since died.

1) Yet God referred to his relationship to them in the present tense, indicating that they must even then be alive in heaven.

**Now I know that some people get really upset because Jesus says that in Heaven there is no marriage. – Love their spouse – can’t be with them**

A) My only answer to that is this: Paul saw heaven – so great – human words could not describe.

B) In heaven – no tears – no pain – unending Joy –

1) As hard as it is to believe for some – it is not going to matter to you.

C) Heaven is going to be so grand that we are not going to miss the best parts of life here.

1) Plain and simple

**D) Will I know my spouse – will we recognize each other?**

1) Not going to be dumber in Heaven than you are here on earth!

E) YES YOU WILL KNOW THEM

**#3 A question about Priority – THIS WEEKEND**

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> Then one of them, a lawyer, {a Scribe – studied the law- Lawyer we think today - Bummer – don’t like Lawyers all ready see Jesus lay into a lawyer }

A lot of good Christians are lawyers – needed and helpful – other lawyers given the profession a bad Rep

So this is a Scribe

asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second *is* like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**A Scribe comes and asks – what is the greatest commandment { Past weekend**

A) 613 laws – 248 positive – 365 negative –

B) Jesus went right to the heart of the law: the Shemah.

“And thou shalt love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

C) The Jews knew this was the Great Commandment. Orthodox Jews wrote it out and put it in these small, elongated boxes they fastened to their front doorposts. They wrote it out and put it in their phylacteries—the leather pouches they wore on their foreheads in obedience to the command to keep the Word always on their minds.

**The Basic premise of the command is that no part of our being is to be unaffected by our love for God**

- Heart – Passion, Pursuits, Direction
- Soul – Personality
- Mind – Intellect – Love grows through knowledge and experience
- Strength – My might and wealth – everything that is at my disposal

**A love that doesn't just feel but it acts – it plays out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> command**

A) We are to love our neighbor as ourselves – Others centered – focused

**B) We are to love God and to love people – Why? God loves people**

C) The closer we get to God the more we become like him

**Note that last phrase: On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

A) The message of the Law and the Prophets, REALLY the message of the entire Old Testament is summed up in one word: LOVE

B) That is why Jesus says, “Love the Lord and love your neighbor and in so doing, you will exemplify the essence of all Old Testament teaching.”

C) I love the picture Jesus painted when He said that the Law and the prophets hang on loving God and loving our neighbor.

**See that is exactly what Jesus exemplified as he hung on the Cross.**

A) Love for His Father – and Love for lost man – that led Jesus to go to the cross in our place

B) All the law and the prophets – everything it was pointing to hung on Jesus that day

1) Continues to hang on Jesus – this day!!!!

**So the religious leaders – put Jesus under this examination questions**

#1 A question about Authority – The Sanhedrin

#2 A question about Responsibility – The Pharisees and the Herodians

#3 A question about Eternity – The Sadducees

#4 A question about Priority – The Scribe

As the Chapter closes – Now it was Jesus' turn to ask a question and His question hit the heart of everything wrong they believed about Him!

**Jesus is going to ask them a question: A question about Identity – Jesus**

<sup>41</sup> While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, <sup>42</sup> saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “*The Son of David.*”

<sup>43</sup> He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: **PSA 110 Messianic**

<sup>44</sup> *‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?*

<sup>45</sup> If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

**What was the basis of Jesus' question?**

A) well you need to understand that in that culture, the Jews expected that Messiah would be a warrior **of the bloodline of David**

B) Not God, just a man, who was a warrior

1) So Jesus didn't necessarily fit the cultural expectation

C) So Jesus goes back to the Word to get them to see why they should have seen that the Messiah was going to be more than a man,

**Jesus quotes here from Psalm 110. They knew this is a Messianic Psalm – a Psalm about Messiah**

A) We will see Peter use this same reference in his first sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:34).

B) This passage would have caused great consternation in the minds of the Pharisees who were so eager to confound and confuse Jesus.

C) You see, in the Jewish culture, one would never call his offspring “Lord.”

1) Solomon was made king while David was alive – but David didn't call him Lord –

**D) So Jesus asked “Why, then, “is David calling his own offspring Lord?”**

1) Truly, David is referring to Someone greater than himself.

**How is David able to call the Messiah His Lord (a title of the divine) and his son? (a title of humanity)?**

**A) the answer of course was what they were not willing to see**

**B) that the scriptures taught the Messiah was both human and divine**

1) A descendant of David, but at the same time, God made flesh –

**C) exactly what Jesus was claiming to be**

**D) So Jesus says If Christ be merely the Son of David as you suppose, David would never have called him Lord.”**

**So their problem was – they didn't know the Power of God and they didn't know the scriptures**

**A) So they REJECTED the authority of Jesus**

**B) What about US – Do we accept His Authority**

1) His RIGHT TO GOVERN US

**C) Is that seen in the fact that we render ourselves unto the Lord**

1) Budget things like our money – spend it

**D) Do we budget our time?**

1) Spent pursuing our relationship with Him to love Him with every part of our being

**E) Are we growing in our love for Him because we are growing in our knowledge of Him?**

**F) We need to examine our hearts tonight**