

Matthew 22:15-46

- **REJECTION OF THE KING - Matthew 19-25**

- o The Wedding...
 - Jesus gave the people the PARABLE of the WEDDING feast...
 - The King sent out SERVANTS to invite those who were CALLED [the Jews]
 - But they made EXCUSES and refused to come to the WEDDING - even killed the SERVANTS...
 - Therefore the King sent His army and killed the WICKED men and burnt their CITY!
- o Everyone is invited...
 - Then the Father sent His SERVANTS [δοῦλος] out into the streets to invite ANYONE...
 - The SERVANTS went out and invited both GOOD and BAD to the WEDDING...
 - **Romans 10:13** – “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
 - But ONE man came in wearing the WRONG cloths [not white robes]
 - When the King questioned him - he was SILENT - and thrown into OUTER darkness [lake of fire]
 - Because many are CALLED [καλέω] - but few are CHOSEN [ἐκλεκτός]!

- **1st - THE PHARISEES... vs. 15-22**

- o 1st - The Trap... vs. 15-16
 - The plot... vs. 15
 - Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk!
 - Jesus KNEW the religious leaders were ready to KILL Him [3 days]
 - They hesitated only because FEARED the multitudes - **Matthew 21:46**
 - But through His PARABLES - Two sons - The vineyard - and Wedding feast...
 - Jesus had UPSET them - provoking them to want to REMOVE Him...
 - So THREE groups came to try and find a way to TRAP him with His words!
 - **Luke 20:20** - “In order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.”
 - Enemy of my enemy... vs. 15
 - [The Pharisees] sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians!
 - Herodians – those who were loyal to King Herod the Tetrarch [King of Judea]
 - These were NOT moral or godly men – they were POLITICIANS...
 - ROMAN puppets who enforced the will of a PAGAN people on the Jews...
 - Strange company for Pharisees except they had something in common – they HATED Jesus!
 - The Truth... vs. 16
 - Saying: Teacher we know that You are true - and teach the way of God in truth!
 - They told Jesus they KNEW [εἶδω] He taught [no article] TRUTH [ἀλήθεια]
 - They were not saying Jesus was THE truth – or taught THE truth...
 - They were saying He was A truth – and taught A way to God [one of many]!
 - We live in a world that says there are MANY ways to heaven – MANY truths...
 - Like Pilate before Jesus - the world asks what is truth - **John 18:37**
 - But TRUTH is NOT open to interpretation [subjective] - it is NOT an opinion...
 - Jesus is NOT a truth – Jesus is the TRUTH defined - **John 14:6**
- o 2nd - The Setup... vs. 16-18
 - Paying Taxes... vs. 16-17
 - Nor do You care about anyone for You do not regard the person of men.
 - Tell us therefore what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar - or not?
 - Since Jesus CARED about others - and did NOT respect AUTHORITY...
 - He did NOT wanting to help out EVIL rulers [Rome] at the expense of the people of God...
 - They demanded [imperative] He say if it was BIBLICAL [ἐξέσται] to pay TAXES to CAESAR!

- Hypocrites... vs. 18
 - Jesus perceived their wickedness and said: Why do you test Me - you hypocrites?
 - Jesus KNEW [γινώσκω] their EVIL [πονηρία] intentions...
 - If He answered YES – then the people would HATE him...
 - Rome was a conquering nation – Jews HATED Rome - and HATED their taxes...
 - If Jesus answered NO – the leaders could turn Him over for treason...
 - He would be arrested for encouraging Jews NOT to pay their TAXES...
 - But Jesus was NOT deceived by their HYPOCRITICAL [ὑποκριτής] words...
 - And asked them if they really thought they could TEST [πειράζω] Him!
 - Those who pray: God give me a new car - and I will use it to bring people to church...
 - Not surprisingly will NOT get a car - because God knows it is a SELFISH prayer - **James 4:3**
 - It is amazing that people think they can TEST God...
 - God is NOT a man that we can convince with carefully crafted words
 - We are NOT going to outsmart the ONE who sees EVERYTHING - **Hebrews 4:13**
- o 3rd - The image... vs. 19-22
 - Image of men... vs. 19-21
 - Show Me the tax money. So they brought Him a denarius.
 - And He said to them: Whose image and inscription is this? They said to Him: Caesar.
 - And He said to them: [give] therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesars.
 - Jesus demanded [imperative] they show Him the MONEY they used to pay their TAXES...
 - He asked them whose IMAGE [εἰκών] and NAME [ἐπιγραφή] was on the MONEY - CAESAR...
 - So Jesus commanded them to GIVE [imperative] to CAESAR what was His [Καίσαρος]
 - The thought being the MONEY was already CAESARS – his face his writing!
 - Should we pay TAXES – look at a PESO – whose picture...
 - Give back to the government what is theirs – **Roman 13:1-6**
 - Image of God... vs. 21
 - [Give] to God the things that are Gods!
 - BUT - we must also give to GOD what is belongs to Him [θεοῦ]
 - We were created in the IMAGE of God - **Genesis 1:27**
 - Therefore we are to give our lives back to the Lord – they belong to Him!
 - We are NOT our own – our lives are NOT ours to live as we choose...
 - We were PURCHASED with the highest of prices – the life of Jesus...
 - Therefore - our lives belong to Him – we should live in a way that glorifies Him!
 - **I Corinthians 6:20** – “You were bought at a price - therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit - which are Gods.”
 - Amazed... vs. 22
 - When they had heard these words they marveled - and left Him and went their way!
 - When the Pharisees and Herodians heard His answer - they were AMAZED...
 - AMAZED [θαυμάζω] - to be in wonder and admire...
 - Jesus had answered their IMPOSSIBLE question - so they left Him alone!
- 2ND - THE SADDUCEES... vs. 23-33
 - o 1st - No Resurrection... vs. 23
 - Liberal leaders...
 - The same day the Sadducees - came to Him and asked Him!
 - That same DAY - the Sadducees came to try and TRAP Jesus...
 - They were the LIBERAL religious group of the day...
 - More concerned with money and power [politics] – than God or Heaven!
 - Only the Law...

- Who say there is no resurrection!
 - The Sadducees only believed in the LAW [תּוֹרָה] - Genesis through Deuteronomy...
 - Since there is no mention of the RESURRECTION in the Law of Moses...
 - Therefore - they rejected the idea of life after death and the resurrection!
 - **Acts 23:8** - "Sadducees say that there is no resurrection - and no angel or spirit."
 - We still have churches like this today - more POLITICAL than SPIRITUAL...
 - They are more interested in the POWER that comes with RELIGION!
- o 2nd - Seven husbands... vs. 24-29
- Levirate marriage... vs. 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!
 - Quoting from the Law of Moses – **Deuteronomy 25:5-6**
 - The LAW states a brother must MARRY his brothers widow if there is NO heir...
 - Their FIRST born son would then be considered the SON of the dead brother!
 - **Deuteronomy 25:6** - "So that his name will not be forgotten in Israel." [NLT]
 - Seven brothers... vs. 25-28
 - Now there were with us seven brothers.
 - The first died after he had married - and having no offspring - left his wife to his brother.
 - Likewise the second also - and the third - even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also.
 - Therefore in the resurrection - whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her!
 - There were [imperfect] with us - feigning this was a fact...
 - But it was likely NOT a true story - instead a perceived moral dilemma...
 - Something the Sadducees had come up with to show a contradiction with the LAW...
 - The assumption being the woman could only have ONE husband in HEAVEN!
 - You are mistaken... vs. 29
 - Jesus answered and said to them: You are mistaken.
 - Not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God!
 - Jesus told them - you are [present] DECEIVED [passive]
 - DECEIVED [πλανάω] - where we get the word PLANET – the WORLD...
 - The Sadducees did NOT believe in their own argument – did NOT believe in the resurrection...
 - They saw the Bible as MORAL stories – NOT truth to taken literally...
 - And because they were caught up in the WORLD - they did missed TWO things...
 - FIRST - they did NOT know what the BIBLE [γραφάς] says about MARRIAGE...
 - SECOND - they did NOT know about the POWER [δύναμις] of God!
 - There are many people who still say the same thing today – the Bible is NOT relevant...
 - It was written TWO thousand years ago – and has NOTHING to offer to us today...
 - Missing what the WORD [γραφάς] says – and the POWER [δύναμις] of God...
 - Because God does NOT change – and His WORD is just as relevant today as then...
 - The POWER of God is just as able to change and transform our lives today!
- o 3rd - Word and Power... vs. 30-33
- No Marriage... vs. 30
 - In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage - but are like angels of God.
 - When we are RESURRECTED - there is NO marriage...
 - Instead we will be LIKE [ὡς] the ANGELS - in that we will not DIE anymore - **Luke 20:36**
 - One of the primary reasons for marriage is procreation [children] - **Genesis 1:28**
 - But since people will NOT die - there is NO reason to make more!
 - My wife often asks if we will still be FRIENDS in heaven - to which I answer - YES...
 - I am sure we can request the get MANSIONS next to each other - **John 14:1**

- But we will NOT have the same relationship there as we have now...
- Rather than being married to each other - we are MARRIED to Jesus - **Revelation 19:7**
- The ONLY way to know what HEAVEN will be like - it to KNOW the WORD [γραφὰς]
- That is why we want to make sure we are reading our Bibles...
- Because only then will we get the ANSWERS - and know the TRUTH!
- God of the living... vs. 31-32
 - Concerning the resurrection of the dead - have you not read what was spoken to you by God.
 - 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!
 - As for the RESURRECTION - they also were WRONG...
 - They did NOT understand [ἀναγινώσκω] what God had said though Moses - **Exodus 3:6**
 - God did NOT say He WAS [past tense] - He is [present] the God of Abraham - Isaac - Jacob...
 - Because God is NOT the God of the DEAD - He is the God of the LIVING...
 - Meaning they are still alive – proving the idea of the Resurrection from the Law!
 - **I Corinthians 15:16-19** - “If the dead do not rise... we are of all men the most pitiable.”
 - The RESURRECTION is the foundation of our FAITH...
 - If all we believe is that Jesus DIED - then we have NO hope [everyone dies]
 - It is the TRUTH that this life is NOT the end that gives us HOPE...
 - Because we know that God has the POWER [δύναμις] to overcome SIN and DEATH!
 - **I Corinthians 15:55** - “O Death where is your sting? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Amazed... vs. 33
 - When the multitudes heard this they were astonished at His teaching!
 - When the MULTITUDES heard His answer - they were ASTONISHED...
 - ASTONISHED [ἐκπλήσσω] - like someone slapping [passive] you in the face...
 - In a moment Jesus had managed to DISPROVE everything the Sadducees stood upon...
 - Because He went back to the WORD - and knew the POWER of God!
- 3RD - THE LAWYER... vs. 34-40
 - 1st - Greatest Commandment... vs. 34-36
 - The Lawyer... vs. 34-35
 - When the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees - they gathered together.
 - Then one of them - a lawyer - asked Him a question testing Him!
 - PHARISEES and SADDUCEES did NOT get along - **Acts 23:7**
 - So when they heard Jesus had MUZZLED [φιμόω] the SADDUCEES...
 - They came back to Jesus - and a LAWYER tried to TEST [πειράζω] Him again...
 - LAWYER [νομικός] - someone highly educated [PHD] in the LAW of Moses!
 - The Law... vs. 36
 - Teacher - which is the great commandment in the law?
 - TEACHER [διδάσκαλος] - using the same title of respect the TWO previous groups has used...
 - Which of the COMMANDS was the GREATEST [μέγας]
 - Leave it to a LAWYER to look for ANSWERS from the LAW!
 - The TALMUD teaches there are 613 COMMANDS [מצוות] found in the LAW [תורה] of Moses...
 - But it does NOT give a complete LIST - so to this day there are different views...
 - Because God NEVER intended for the LAW to be the ANSWER!
- The purpose of the LAW was to show us it is IMPOSSIBLE to be GOOD...
- It set a standard that was so IMPOSSIBLE - we would see our need for God to HELP us!
- **Galatians 3:24** - “The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ!”

- o 2nd - Two commands... vs. 37-40
 - Love the Lord... vs. 37-38
 - Jesus said to him: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart.
 - With all your soul - and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment!
 - The FIRST [πρῶτος] and GREAT [μέγας] command...
 - Is that we will [future] unconditionally [ἀγαπάω] LOVE [indicative] the Lord [κύριος]
 - With ALL [ὅλος] of our HEART - our SOUL - and our MIND - **Deuteronomy 6:5**
 - This is the COMMAND that the Jews put on their doors [mezuzah]
 - This is what the COMMAND that they tie to their hands [phylactery]
 - It is the COMMAND that every Jew reads every SABBATH all around the world!
 - We are made up of THREE parts – heart [καρδία] – soul [ψυχή] – and strength [δύναμις] - LXX
 - We live in a BODY [δύναμις] - have conscious MIND [καρδία] - and an eternal SPIRIT [ψυχή]
 - And we will [future] use [indicative] EVERY part of who we are to LOVE [ἀγαπάω] God!
 - Love others... vs. 39
 - The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself!
 - The SECOND command is like [ὅμοιος] the FIRST...
 - We will [future] unconditionally [ἀγαπάω] LOVE [indicative] our neighbor as ourselves!
 - The FIRST thing we think when we get up in the morning - bathroom [or food]
 - The LAST thing we think before we go to bed at night - was about OUR day...
 - We constantly think about OURSELVES - because that is who we LOVE!
 - And we will [future] LOVE [ἀγαπάω] others [indicative] with that same kind of LOVE...
 - But do NOT miss - that is NOT what we MUST do - it is NOT a law we have to KEEP...
 - It is what happens when God gets a hold of our lives!
 - **Jeremiah 31:33** - "I will put My law in their minds - and write it on their hearts."
 - Law and Prophets... vs. 40
 - On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets!
 - On these TWO commands - the WHOLE [ὅλος] Old Testament hangs...
 - Because ONCE [future] we LOVE [ἀγαπάω] God...
 - It will be [future] natural for us to also LOVE [ἀγαπάω] others!
 - **I John 4:7-8** - "Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... for God is love!"
 - Jesus is NOT telling us what we have to do to be GOOD...
 - He is telling us what He will do to us once we put our FAITH in Him...
 - The mark of a believer in Christ - is the LOVE of God!
 - **John 13:35** - "All will know that you are My disciples - if you have love for one another."
- 4TH - FINAL QUESTION... vs. 41-46
 - o 1st - Son of David... vs. 41-42
 - While the Pharisees were gathered together Jesus asked them:
 - What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He? They said to Him: The Son of David!
 - Jesus took the opportunity to ask the PHARISEES one question...
 - Whose SON was the CHRIST [Χριστός] - the promised MESSIAH [מָשִׁיחַ]
 - The PHARISEES did NOT hesitate - He is the SON of David!
 - When David desired to build a HOUSE for the LORD - God told him NO [man of war]
 - But because of his HEART - the Lord would instead build Him a house...
 - God would set his SON [Messiah] on the throne FOREVER - **II Samuel 7:13**
 - o 2nd - Son of God... vs. 43-46
 - My Lord... vs. 43-44
 - [Jesus] said to them: How then does David in the Spirit call Him Lord - saying:
 - The LORD said to my Lord: Sit at My right hand - till I make Your enemies Your footstool!

- The trap had been set - and the PHARISEES had walked right in...
- Jesus noting David was in the SPIRIT [ἐν πνεύματι] said - **Psalm 110:1**
- The LORD [יהוה] - the FATHER - said to the Lord [יְיָ] of David - the SON...
- [Jesus] sit on my RIGHT hand - **Mark 16:19** – **Acts 2:33** – **I Peter 3:22**
- Until I put ALL Your enemies – are underneath Your FEET [conquered]!
- The Son... vs. 45
 - If David then calls Him Lord - how is He his Son?
 - Since [indicative] David called the Messiah Lord [κύριος] - HOW could he be his SON...
 - No FATHER would ever call his son LORD - it is backwards...
 - Because the FATHER came first - the SON came from the FATHER...
 - But although the MESSIAH came from David - David also came from the MESSIAH...
 - Because the Christ is not just a MAN - He is the God who created all!
 - **Colossians 1:16** - “By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth.”
 - Talk about a way to end a DEBATE - Jesus finishes with I am God...
 - Which makes all the attempts to TRAP Him early seem FOOLISH...
 - Is it no wonder every time He finished speaking the people were AMAZED...
 - As He was giving them these powerful TRUTHS...
 - That we are NOT our own - we belong to God - and should live for Him...
 - The way we understand that is as we come to His WORD [γραφῶς]
 - And are given NEW life [resurrection] by His POWER [δύναμις]
 - Because then God will change our hearts - so that we can LOVE Him and LOVE others!
- No more questions... vs. 46
 - No one was able to answer Him a word.
 - Nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore!
 - None of PHARISEES had the POWER [δύναμις] to answer Him...
 - And NO one DARED to ask Him any more questions - they were BEATEN...
 - But Jesus was NOT done - He had one final WORD to give to the religious leaders!
 - **Matthew 23:13** - “Woe to you scribes and Pharisees - hypocrites!”