

Matthew 22.15-45 - Sermon Notes - November 14, 2021

CONFRONTATION

- this is the final week of Jesus before His crucifixion
- He had presented himself to the nation on Sunday with the Triumphal entry, but was rejected
- upon entering the city of Jerusalem, He infuriated the religious folk by cleaning house in the Temple
- when challenged by the religious leaders about who gave Him the right or authority to do what He had done, Jesus responds by asking them about the ministry of John the Baptist
- they were unable to answer Him for fear of the people
 - like a lot of preachers today who will not stand up and tell the truth because of the fear they have of how their hearers will respond
- Jesus then tells three parables that the Jews understood to be about them
 - The Parable of the Two Sins
 - The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers
- the religious folks are now angry, and they try to trap Jesus with His words so that they might have reason to arrest Him

2. CONFRONTATION WITH THE PHARISEES

(15-17) IS IT LAWFUL?

- the religious leaders were plotting and scheming on how they might trap Jesus by asking Him trick questions
- here people who disagreed significantly in their theology joined in the hatred for Jesus
- they begin by trying to flatter Him, but remember their motive = they wanted to entangle Him
- What do You think, Is it lawful . . .
 - always the question of legalism
- the Herodians were more of a political group that advocated support for Herod
- the only reason I mention this is because there are lots of folks today who want to bring politics into the church

(18-22) RENDER TRIBUTE TO CAESAR AND TO GOD

- we have certain responsibilities to the government
- this is what Peter had to say about it = [1 Peter 2.17](#) - Honor all [people]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
- but money isn't the only thing stamped with an an image
 - [Genesis 1.26-27](#) - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- we also have a responsibility to God who created us
 - are you faithfully surrendering your life to God
 - He is the One to whom all creation will ultimately bow in submission to, so have you made that decision?

3. CONFRONTATION WITH THE SADDUCEES

(23-28) WHAT ABOUT THE RESURRECTION?

- we move from the political realm to now addressing matters of theology and belief
- The Sadducees were the ancient version of the modern liberal theologians.
- they ask a ridiculous question about the resurrection, which they did not believe in, based on what Moses taught in the law ([Deuteronomy 25.5-10](#) - Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother.)
 - there seems to be a growing number of people who call themselves believers but have questions about the Resurrection

(29) THE MISTAKE OF NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES

- they were guilty of the same things that a lot of people today are
 - not knowing the Scriptures, though they thought they did
 - it is possible to know a lot about the Bible, but completely miss the meaning
 - not knowing the power of God

(30-33) HAVE YOU NOT READ?

- Jesus simply told them that relationships would be different in heaven than they are here on earth
- he then corrected them concerning their denial of the resurrection by asking them if they had not read in the Scriptures
 - how often our bad theology could be corrected by just reading the Word and taking it face value

- God is the God of the living
- Heaven is real

4. CONFRONTATION WITH THE SCRIBES

(34-36) WHAT IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

- the scribes were the ones who placed the importance on keeping the rules, and they had a lot of them - some say there were 613
 - what had started out as the Ten Commandments had over the centuries evolved in volumes with very exacting rules as to how the Law was to be lived out
- thinking they were trapping Him, the scribe asked which one of the rules was the greatest

(37-40) SUMMARY OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

- Jesus simply takes them back to the greatest confession of the Jews - the Shema
 - [Deuteronomy 6.4-5](#) - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD [is] one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- the second is linked to the first, and is summed up in the word "love"
- some see in this a command to love ourselves, but I believe that is not what is being said here
 - Jon Courson says it well, "Just as you already love yourself, care for yourself, and think about yourself, you are to love your neighbor in the same way."
- the entire Old Testament can be summed up in these statements
- the bottom line = love God, love people

5. JESUS POSES A QUESTION TO THE PHARISEES

(41-42) JESUS POSES A QUESTION TO THE PHARISEES

- Before they could think of another question to test Him, Jesus asked them a question.
- the question that Jesus asks is really directed to get the Pharisees to make a decision on who He really is
 - similar to what He asked the disciples in [Matthew 16.15](#) - He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
 - What about you - have you made your decision?

(43-45) THE PHARISEES UNABLE TO ANSWER

- here Jesus quotes from [Psalm 110.1](#), which Peter also quoted in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost in [Acts 2.34](#)
- the reality that Jesus is Lord!
- the guys who studied the Bible were stumped

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