

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 21-23: Clash of Kingdoms - Confronting Power, Pride, and Empty Worship

Sermon: Matthew 22:15-22

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026

1. *Read Matthew 22:15-16.* The Pharisees and Herodians "teamed up" despite diametrically opposed beliefs. In what ways do we see the world today setting aside its own internal conflicts to oppose the absolute authority of Christ? How do we meet that opposition in a missional way with grace and truth?
2. The leaders used flattery, calling Jesus a "man of integrity" while harboring "evil intent". How can we discern when we are using "religious-sounding" words to hide a heart that is actually resistant to God's leading?
3. Jesus was "not swayed by appearances" or social rank. How does this aspect of His character challenge our tendency to calculate what we say or how we act based on the audience or seek the favor of those who might be perceived as more prominent?

4. *Read Matthew 22:17-21* The leaders believed Jesus had only two options: support Rome (infuriating the Jews) or oppose taxes (inviting Roman execution). How does Jesus' "third way" response help us navigate our dual citizenship as citizens of God's kingdom living in a secular nation? How can this help us have a gospel influence to those around us?

5. In your own life, how do you distinguish between "rendering to Caesar" (honoring earthly obligations) and "rendering to God" (offering your soul)?

6. How should the reality of being an image-bearer of God change the way you view your "time, talent, and treasure"?

7. *Read Matthew 22:22.* What is the danger of being intellectually "amazed" by Jesus' wisdom without ever actually surrendering our hearts to Him?

