

MATTHEW CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

Take a ways

FIVE QUESTIONS

A Preparation Question (Vss 1-14)

A Political Question (Vss 15-22)

A Doctrinal Question (Vss 23-33)

A Spiritual Question (Vss 34-40)

An Eternal Question (Vss 41-46)

Why did Jesus teach in parables?

They were simple earthly stories with heavenly meanings

The uninterested went away confused but didn't care

The sincere sought the true meaning

The tragedy of Israel's failure

They made light of God's call to them - beating and killing His messengers

Their indifference and hostile attitude made God turn away from them

Rejecting Jesus was the final straw - God's patience ran out

On the Day of Pentecost the Church was born

And in 70 AD Jerusalem and their beloved Temple were destroyed

The Jew's apathy led to their rejection

And God's forbearance led to the salvation of the Gentiles

What does separation of Church and State really mean

As citizens of heaven are we exempt from earthly rulers ?

There are 39 different books in the Old Testament

Yet Jesus reduced them to 11 words

"On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets"

If our lives are to reflect the love of God

Can others see Jesus in us ?

03-29 Lesson: Matthew Chapter 22

Date: 2026-03-29 13:23:19

Location: First Baptist Church Tallassee Alabama

Instructor: Sid Edwards

Summary

This lesson offers a comprehensive analysis of Matthew chapter 22, continuing from chapter 21, where Jesus presents parables and responds to challenges from Jewish religious leaders. The speaker organizes the chapter around five key questions: a preparation question (the parable of the wedding feast), a political question (paying taxes to Caesar), a doctrinal question (the resurrection), a spiritual question (the greatest commandment), and an eternal question (Jesus' identity as both Son of David and Lord). The lecture clarifies symbolism, historical context, and theological implications in each exchange, highlighting Jesus' wisdom in silencing his opponents and revealing core truths about the Kingdom of God, salvation, the nature of the afterlife, and His divine and human nature. The ultimate emphasis is on the personal decision each person must make regarding who Jesus is.

Knowledge Points

1. Parable of the Wedding Feast (Preparation Question)

- **Parable Overview**

- In Matthew 22, Jesus presents a parable comparing the kingdom of heaven to a king who held a wedding feast for his son—framed as a “preparation question.”
- The parable is directed to the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes, who were enraged by Jesus' exposure of their hypocrisy and blindness but hesitated to act against him because of his popularity.

- **Symbolism of Characters**

- Four principal figures represent key realities:
 - **The King:** God, sovereign over all.
 - **The Son/Bridegroom:** Jesus. The focus on the bridegroom reflects Oriental wedding customs, portraying Christ as the bridegroom and the church as His bride.
 - **The Servants:** The Old Testament prophets who announced the coming Messiah.
 - **The Guests:** The nation of Israel and their negative response to the King, His Son, and His servants.

- **The Invited Guests' Rejection**

- The first invited group, representing Jews during Jesus' earthly ministry, willfully refused to come, prioritizing farms and businesses. They seized, abused, and killed the king's servants.

- The second invited group, likely those addressed by the apostles and early Christians (e.g., in the days of Paul, Timothy, Titus), also rejected the invitation.
- Their refusal was not due to inability but unwillingness.
- **The King's Judgment**
 - The king became angry, sent his armies, destroyed the murderers, and burned their city (verse 7).
 - This is interpreted as a prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D., punishment for Israel's rejection and killing of the Son of God.
- **The Invitation to the Gentiles**
 - After the initial guests proved unworthy, the king sent servants to the main roads ("highways and hedges") to invite everyone they could find, both "bad and good."
 - These new guests represent the Gentiles, to whom the kingdom offer extended after Israel's rejection. This shift is associated with the Day of Pentecost, Israel's last opportunity to repent. We are now in the "church age" or "age of the Gentiles."
- **The Man Without Wedding Clothes**
 - The king provided appropriate wedding garments for the new guests, yet one man was found without the provided clothing.
 - The garment symbolizes salvation and righteousness. The man represents a pretender or hypocrite who appears Christian but has not truly been converted and surrendered to Jesus—rejecting the king's provision.
 - Confronted, the man was "speechless," signifying that at the final judgment (the great white throne), the lost will have no defense or second chance.
 - He was cast into "outer darkness," representing the lake of fire and eternal judgment.
- **"Many are Called, but Few are Chosen"**
 - This concluding statement (verse 14) teaches that salvation is offered widely (to Jew and Gentile), yet only a few are "chosen."
 - The "chosen" or "elect" are those whom God, through foreknowledge, knew would accept His offer of salvation. God does not coerce the decision but knows its outcome.
 - This aligns with the "broad way" versus "narrow way" in Matthew 7, indicating more will be lost than saved.

2. Questions from the Religious Leaders

- **The Political Question: Paying Taxes to Caesar**
 - The Pharisees, intent on trapping Jesus, collaborated with the Herodians (Jews supportive of Roman rule).
 - After flattering Jesus, they asked if it was lawful to pay a poll tax to Caesar. A "yes" would anger Jews who hated Rome; a "no" could lead to a treason charge.
 - Jesus, perceiving their malice, asked for the tax coin (a denarius) and inquired whose image it bore. They answered, "Caesar's."
 - Jesus replied, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," dissolving the trap and leaving them amazed and confounded.
- **The Doctrinal Question: The Resurrection**

- The Sadducees, who denied resurrection and angels, posed a hypothetical to mock resurrection.
 - They described a woman who married seven brothers in succession (per Deuteronomy 25:5) and asked whose wife she would be in the resurrection.
 - Jesus said they were mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God.
 - He explained that in the resurrection people will be like angels in heaven—neither marrying nor given in marriage. Believers are God’s guests; angels are His servants.
 - He affirmed the resurrection by citing God’s words, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,” emphasizing God is the God of the living, confirming the patriarchs’ continued life.
- **The Spiritual/Eternal Question: The Greatest Commandment & Christ’s Identity**
 - A Pharisaic lawyer tested Jesus, asking for the greatest commandment among the 613 in the Law.
 - Jesus summarized the Law with two verses known as the “Shema” (Hebrew for “hear, pay attention”):
 1. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind” (Deuteronomy 6:5).
 2. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18), echoing the golden rule.
 - 3. After silencing his opponents, Jesus asked them to distinguish religion from faith: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They answered, “The son of David.”
 - 4. Jesus then presented a paradox from Psalm 110:1 (by David): “How does David, speaking by the Spirit, call him ‘Lord’?... If David calls him ‘Lord,’ how is he his son?”
 - 5. The Pharisees could not answer and stopped questioning him.

3. The Answer to Jesus’ Final Question

- The resolution lies in Jesus’ dual nature.
- He is the “Son of God” by the Holy Spirit’s work in His birth.
- He is the “Son of Man” (and Son of David) by His mother’s lineage.
- He is fully God and fully man simultaneously—a truth embraced by faith.
- The lecture concludes by asking the audience: “What will you do with Jesus?” since what He will do with you depends on your decision.

Next Arrangements

- Read the last half of Matthew 27 in preparation for the Easter Sunday worship service (April 5, 2026).
- Study Matthew 28 for the next Bible study session on the resurrection.

- Reflect on the personal question: "What will you do with Jesus?" and consider your own belief and acceptance of Him.