**Questioning Jesus**

*Matthew 22:15-46*

**Introduction**

1. God created man with the ability to reason. With this ability comes the tool of questioning.
	1. We grow by asking questions.
	2. We explain by asking questions.
	3. We teach by asking questions.
	4. We discover truth by asking questions.
2. However, as we grow, we begin to realize there are uses for questioning that are dishonest. Sometimes men question with ulterior motives:
	1. To lay a trap.
	2. To find contradiction, and disprove.
3. Jesus found Himself being questioned many times during His ministry. These questions were often asked with evil intentions.
	1. **However, Jesus answered with such grace as He used these situations to teach.**
	2. **He Himself did not ask questions for any other reason, and when asked He answered with truth, and conviction.**
4. Parables concerning rejection of the Christ. **(Matthew 21:23-22:14)**
5. Authority Questioned **(21:23-27)**
	1. Chief priests and elders asked Jesus by what authority He acted.
	2. He defeated them with His own question, which confirmed their rejection of Him as being from God.
6. Parables concerning the Chief priests and Pharisees **(21:28-22:14)**.
	1. **Two sons** **(cf. 21:28-32)** – convicted them of being impenitent, and explained that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom before them.
	2. **Wicked Vinedressers** **(cf. 21:33-40)** – convicted them of killing messengers of God, and foreshadowing the killing of Jesus, God’s Son.
	3. **Confirmation that these parables concerned them** **(cf. 21:41-46)** – they rejected Christ thus far, and would eventually consummate that in His crucifixion.
		1. He pointed to prophecy **(cf. Psalm 118:22)** which confirmed this happening, and Jesus being victorious.
		2. They understood He was speaking of them, and wanted to take Him, but feared the multitudes who took Him as a prophet.
	4. **Wedding Feast** **(cf. 22:1-14)** – those who seem less desirable will make up the kingdom, and those who refuse the invitation will be destroyed.
7. The Pharisees and rulers had more than enough evidence to confirm Jesus was the Christ. They did not love the truth, but were hypocrites, and thus wanted to defeat Jesus.
	1. This is the motive in their questioning, as well as the Sadducees.
	2. **It is beneficial to see how their questions were ill-conceived and malevolent, and how Jesus handled them aptly.**
8. Questioning Jesus **(cf. 22:15-40)**.
9. The Pharisees – About Taxes **(v. 15-22)**.
	1. Motive – to entangle Him **(v. 15)**.
		1. Jesus perceived their motive **(v. 18)**.
		2. He knew of their obstinacy from earlier.
	2. Disciples of Pharisees, and Herodians.
		1. **Pharisees – Opposed wholly to taxes.** (Claim to be concerned about things of God, and were opposed to taxes because they did not wish to pay tribute to a heathen, but only serve God.)
		2. **Herodians – Pro-taxes.** (Partisans of King Herod who relied greatly on taxes.)
		3. No partiality **(v. 16)** – *they are trying to box Him in. If He chooses one or the other He’ll lose followers, and show Himself to be opposed to one or the other.*
	3. His answer **(v. 19-22)**
		1. **Our service to God does not conflict with our submission to government. They are made to coexist.**
			1. **Romans 13:1-7** – The governments are in place by God for the benefit of His people. It is the proper thing to pay taxes. (*In fact, it is impossible to please God without submission to the authorities*).
				1. **Because of Wrath** – punishment from government for disobedience to laws.
				2. **Because of conscience** – because this is a must in order to be right with God (He appointed the authority).
			2. **1 Timothy 2:1-2** – We are to pray for our leaders.
			3. **1 Peter 2:17** – We are to honor our leaders.
		2. **An exception** **(cf. Acts 5:28-29)**.
			1. Apostles being told not to preach Jesus.
			2. They must choose God over men in all situations.
		3. **Paying taxes does not conflict with our service to God, but we cannot serve God in rebellion to government.**
		4. Jesus answered with such wisdom that exposed their motives.
10. The Sadducees – About the Resurrection **(v. 23-33)**.
	1. Question that, in their mind, disproved the resurrection by showing that it is folly. **(v. 23-28)**.
	2. You are mistaken, not knowing:
		1. The scripture – they alluded to the writing of Moses, but they did not regard the teaching of the resurrection in scripture.
		2. The power of God – they misunderstand the nature of the resurrection, and the wisdom and power of God to make a resurrected state which does not need marriage (cf. ***Genesis 2:18 – “it is not good that man should be alone”*** – God has the power to make this not so in the resurrection.)
	3. Explanation:
		1. **(v. 30)** – The resurrection is not physical, but spiritual.
			1. **1 Corinthians 15:50** – flesh can’t inherit the kingdom of God.
				1. **Daniel 12:13** – Daniel’s reward is realized in the resurrection, as is ours.
			2. ***Genesis 2:24 “they shall become one flesh”*** – Marriage is a physical union.
		2. **(v. 31-32)** – God Himself spoke of the resurrection.
			1. Have you not read? (**Have you only considered the scripture which fits your agenda?**)
			2. If Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are dead – long ago – how is God the God of the living?
				1. **They will be raised in the resurrection!**
				2. **Hebrews 11:13-16** – Speaking of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
	4. **They raised a hypothetical question to disprove truth, but did not consider the folly in their question exposed by the truth.** (*They did not have honest hearts which love the truth.*)
11. The Scribes – About the Commandments **(v. 34-40)**.
	1. Lawyer/scribe – an intense student of the Law of God. Would be of the number who know the law the best.
	2. Which is the greatest commandment?
		1. The Pharisees were hard set on legalism. They did not understand the true purpose of the law (**cf. Matthew 5:20**).
		2. When all commands in the Old Law are considered there is said to be 613.
		3. They disputed over heavy and light laws. Important and less important laws.
	3. **They tested Him. They were trying to put Him on the spot to answer a seemingly unanswerable question that they have always disputed.**
	4. **(v. 37-39)** – Love God, and neighbor.
		1. Jesus does not nullify or belittle all other commands, but shows their purpose.
		2. **John 14:15; 1 John 5:3** – to love God is to keep His commandments. (Not one but all – **James 2:10**).
		3. **Loving neighbor follows for he is made in the image of God**. (**cf. 1 John 4:20-21** – we cannot please God without loving our brother.)
	5. **(v. 40)** – If you take the love of God and neighbor away, you take away all the commandments.
		1. **This does not belittle other commandments, but shows they are dependent on the greatest**.
		2. **Mark 12:32-34** – Marks account of the scribe’s response.
		3. Even the scribe recognized the Law spoke of this truth. (*Sacrifice and burnt offerings were still necessary, but weren’t pleasing without love.*)

***All these questions asked of Jesus were with evil motives, yet Jesus still sought to teach. Now, to further teach, and in hopes of gaining His opposition as His own, He becomes the questioner. 🡪***

1. Jesus Questioning (**cf. 22:41-46**). (OUT OF LOVE)
2. Jesus wished to teach a pertinent truth.
	1. **John 8:23-24** – Believing that Jesus is the Son of God is necessary to receive salvation (cf. **Acts 8:37** – Believe what? Believe Jesus is God’s Son!).
	2. **Jesus question was not wicked. He did not wish to embarrass or entrap them, but to lead them to the truth**.
3. Mistake of the Pharisees.
	1. Kingdom is not physical! – **John 18:36**
	2. They did not want their position to be taken from them – **John 12:42-43**
4. Son of David = flesh; Son of God = Deity
	1. David called the Christ his LORD **(v. 43-44)**. – He recognized Him as the begotten of God.
	2. The Christ is both God and man **(cf. Romans 1:3-4)**.
		1. The Pharisees did not like Jesus being called the Son of David.
		2. They definitely would not like Him being called the Son of God.
		3. **But unless they believe this, they cannot be saved!**
	3. **Romans 10:2-4** – Jesus wanted them to see this truth to put an end to their ignorance! (*They stumbled at this stone!*)

**Conclusion**

1. Questions can be used for good or bad.
2. We must understand God’s will for us allows us, and expects us to be subject to governing authorities.
3. We must look forward to and prepare for the resurrection. This world is not our home.
4. We must love God by keeping all commandments in sincerity.
5. We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.
	1. **Jesus loves us and wants us to come to the knowledge of the truth.**
	2. **That truth demands change, and we must be willing to conform to it in order to be children of God and receive the promises.**