

## Jesus: No Spin

# Matthew Chapter Twenty Two: The Great Debates

personal / group study for use with the message of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matthew 22:37-40).***

Jesus comes to Jerusalem proclaiming His kingship. But many reject Him and plot to kill Him. The Pharisees as a group opposed Roman occupation of Palestine. The Herodians supported Herod Antipas and the Romans. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. All three groups confront Jesus and His claim to be God. His answers leave them speechless.

### Introduction.

Jesus had been amazing people with His teaching everywhere He went. In Jerusalem during His final week of ministry before He went to the cross, He had a series of debates with different leaders within the Jewish community. Remember that these narratives are not just to inform us, but to transform us. The religious leaders challenged Jesus not so they could learn from Him, but to prove Him wrong and discredit Him. Many people today still want to debate or raise objections about who Jesus is so that they don't have to change anything in their lives. **They may think Jesus will make them give up something. But He gives so much more than they will ever give up!**

### Read.

#### Matthew 22

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

<sup>1</sup>Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

<sup>4</sup>"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

<sup>5</sup>"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. <sup>6</sup>The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup>"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. <sup>9</sup>Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' <sup>10</sup>So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

<sup>12</sup>'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

<sup>13</sup>"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

<sup>14</sup>"For many are invited, but few are chosen."

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

<sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

<sup>21</sup>"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

<sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

### Marriage at the Resurrection

<sup>23</sup>That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>24</sup>"Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. <sup>25</sup>Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup>The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup>Finally, the woman died. <sup>28</sup>Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. <sup>30</sup>At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup>But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, <sup>32</sup>'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'<sup>[a]</sup>? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

<sup>33</sup>When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

### The Greatest Commandment

<sup>34</sup>Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup>One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

<sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

### Whose Son Is the Christ

<sup>41</sup>While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, <sup>42</sup>"What do you think about the Christ<sup>[d]</sup>? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

<sup>43</sup>He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

<sup>44</sup>" 'The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies

under your feet." <sup>45</sup>If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup>No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

*\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

## Questions.

**ThinkAboutIt...**

1. When did the king invite you to His banquet? Did you accept the invitation right away?
2. In reading Matthew 22, do you think the temple leaders genuinely wanted answers? What did they want?

### ReflectOnIt...

3. In Jesus' interactions with the Herodians, what might happen to Him if He tells them not to pay taxes to Caesar? Explain why the question was asked?
4. Why were the Sadducees asking about the resurrections? Did they believe in the resurrection?
5. When answering the Sadducees, Jesus quotes from Exodus 3:4-6, because they held to the Pentateuch (the first five books of Moses) as being authoritative. Even when they were trying to discredit Jesus, He took into account to whom He was speaking. Has there ever been a time in your life that Jesus worked very specifically with you and the set of beliefs to which you held? Explain.
6. Jesus tells the Pharisees the greatest commandment. What does He say it is?
7. Finally, Jesus is asking the questions. What were His questions? How can you explain what David wrote in Psalms 101?
8. Why did the Pharisees stop asking questions?

### RespondToIt...

***“Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful” (2 Timothy 2:23-24).***

9. Read Revelation 19:7-8; Colossians 3:12-14. What are you to be clothed in? What is the “overcoat” that binds them all together?
10. How do you live out the greatest commandments?
11. Who have you invited to join you at the banquet?
12. If Jesus would have argued with the teachers of the law, would He have convinced them of anything?
13. When you share your faith do you argue your point? How can you share your faith in a kind way?