

Lesson #23- Matthew Chapter 22 Questions for Discussion:

1. The first 14 verses of this chapter are a parable told by Jesus of a wedding that a king made for his son. The parable is compared to the kingdom of heaven. The parable ends with Jesus expressing the point, "For many are called, but few are chosen". What do you think the details of this parable represent?
2. In verses 15-22, we see the Pharisees enter a league with some folks they have historically disliked... a lot. Now though, the Pharisees and the Herodians equally find Jesus threatening to their powerbase (the old saying. "Nothing unifies like a common enemy"). They jointly approach Jesus with a scheme to trap Him by His words. They think they can get Him to show disloyalty to Rome by asking His view on paying taxes. They will use even a hint of resistance to Caesar's demand for tribute money as evidence of revolt. How perfect they think, He already is talking about a kingdom. If He answers as they hope and expect, they will take that and His kingdom talk to the Roman magistrate, persuade him that Jesus is an insurrection threat. Rome will kill Jesus. Problem solved. Problem not solved! They are matching wits with God; His answer baffles them and they can do nothing but walk away in dismay. How does Jesus answer their question and what should they, and we, learn from His answer?

3. Now the Sadducees are up to bat. They come to Jesus with a question they are sure will discredit Him. They tell this story of a woman that is married and still childless when her husband dies. In accordance with the Mosaic law, she is married by his brother, who also dies without her ever bearing a child. This happens repeatedly until a total of seven brothers marry her and die, yet she never has a child. The question proposed is, "Whose wife will she be in heaven?" Discuss Jesus' response to the Sadducees.

4. Both religious groups having been shut down in their efforts to discredit Jesus, come together. From among them an expert in the law of Moses decides to try it one more time. He asks Jesus, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Which of the ten commandments did Jesus identify as the greatest?

5. The chapter concludes with Jesus asking the Pharisees a two-part question of His own...
First Jesus asks, *"What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?"*, to which they answer partially right. *"They say unto him, The Son of David."* The next question Jesus asks builds on the first, *"How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?"* The Pharisees have no answer.

What is the answer to Jesus' questions?