

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

**Intro Question:**

1. What's one thing that makes you angry?

**Pray:** for God's help to love and hate the right things.

**Read:** Matthew 22:15-23:39

**Questions about the passage:**

1. Split into pairs or individuals and take a section each (22:15-22, 22:23-33, 22:34-40, 22:41-45 and all of 23 - you can skip 23 if group is small).
2. Report back to the group on what you think the text means. For instance, what does it show about Jesus, or what Jesus' people should be like, or what will happen to those who reject/accept Jesus' message?
3. Do you notice any links between the passages?

**Questions for us:**

- Why wouldn't there be marriage in heaven?
- How does God want to be loved? Can you grow in your love of God & people? How?
- What does hypocrisy in 'The Church' look like today? What do we need to be careful of?
- Do you get angry at the right things? What should Christians be angry about that sometimes they aren't?
- What is Jesus' heart in Matthew 23?

**Pray:** for us to have God's heart.

**Homework:** read Revelation for Church Camp

**Remind:** no Church on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March (after camp)

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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For the next bunch of weeks, until Easter, we will be working through the end of Matthew's gospel (starting at chapter 17) as Jesus continues his ministry up to it's final endpoint - his death & resurrection.

This week, Jesus answers the questions of his opponents and points out their hypocrisy.

#### Questions about the passage:

- *Split into pairs or individuals and take a section each (22:15-22, 22:23-33, 22:34-40, 22:41-45 and all of 23 - you can skip 23 if group is small).*
- *Report back to the group on what you think the text means. For instance, what does it show about Jesus, or what Jesus' people should be like, or what will happen to those who reject/accept Jesus' message?*
- *Do you notice any links between the passages?*

*The links are that Jesus shows the wisdom of God in his interactions with the Pharisees and Sadducees. He knows the Scriptures. He is the one who truly loves God by proclaiming righteousness and love.*

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#### Questions for us:

- Why wouldn't there be marriage in heaven?

In heaven/new creation, there is no need for marriage because there will be no new children born. God's creation will be full of his people who 'came out of the tribulation'.

- How does God want to be loved? Can you grow in your love of God & people? How? God wants to be loved by doing the good works we've been given to do in praise/thanksgiving. Jesus says, if you love me, follow my commands. You can grow your love of God/people by seeing God's love more clearly, seeing God's goodness (how lovable he is) and people by seeing their distress/need.

- What does hypocrisy in 'The Church' look like today? What do we need to be careful of?

We need to be careful. The hypocrisy Jesus is pointing out is that these are the leaders of the Church who don't practice what they preach. They aren't just 'slipping up', they don't love God or people and care only for themselves. But where might you see that today in the Church?

- Do you get angry at the right things? What should Christians be angry about that sometimes they aren't?

Consider examples today of terrible things happening in our world that sometimes Christians don't get angry about.

- What is Jesus' heart in Matthew 23?

Good to finish on Jesus heart. Even though he speaks against the religious leaders with strong language, his desire is to gather them in like a hen with her chicks.