



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Words!

Matthew 22:15-33

Message #62 of 80 – S1097

Sermon given on May 19, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Words!

Matthew 22:15-33

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 22**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Words!**
- Words are important.
- The right words at the right time can have a powerful effect on the hearer (**Proverbs 25:11**).

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

- James wrote that the tongue, our words also have great power to destroy (James 3:5-6).

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

- A man or woman who has control over their tongue is truly strong.
 - Hopefully you are not like me.
 - There have been times when I have not been as careful with my words as I should have been.
 - James also said we shouldn't be quick to speak (**James 1:19a**).
- So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak...**
- Today, we will look at the first two of three encounters Jesus has with the religious establishment as they try to trick Jesus into saying something they can use against Him.
 - In a couple of days Jesus will be arrested by the religious leaders.
 - They are hoping that one of these traps will catch Jesus and allow them to bring a legitimate charge against Him.
 - They will give up that pretense and arrest Him and then make up charges until they find something they can use to hand Him over to the Romans for crucifixion.

- Let's look at the first encounter.
- **Matthew 22:15**
- Jesus was a problem for the religious establishment of His day.
- He had just called them out for their hypocrisy and told them that God was going to judge them for it.
- Jesus is a problem for anyone striving to build their own kingdom.
- Jesus is king and every knee will bow to Him.
- **Matthew 22:16**
- The Pharisees and Herodians were seldom in agreement.
- This is an alliance meant for only one purpose, to alienate Jesus from one group or the other.
- The Pharisees are legalistic and anti-Roman.
- The Herodians are corrupt and worldly Jews who have sided with Herod so they can enjoy the pleasures the Romans can provide them.
- These two groups couldn't have more different and normally they were bitter enemies to each other, but they have joined forces to come against a common enemy; Jesus.
- 'we know' – They know these things about Jesus, but they don't believe it has any meaning to them and instead of obeying, they try to trap Jesus in His words.
- 'nor do you care about anyone' – They are saying that Jesus speaks His mind regardless of what other people might think or say.
- **Matthew 22:17**
- The Pharisees believed they shouldn't pay taxes to Rome because the emperor considered himself to be a god and therefore it was idol worship to pay taxes to him.
- The Herodians believed it was right to pay taxes because that was how they were able to enjoy all the pleasures of the Romans.
- If Jesus were to say 'no', He would be in trouble with the Romans.
- If He were to say 'yes', He would be in trouble with most of the Jews.
- If He said nothing, they would use His silence to discredit Him.
- They thought they had Him trapped. They were wrong!
- **Matthew 22:18-22**

- By answering this question the way He did Jesus is saying that government has a rightful place in the lives of God's people and that you can be in subjection to government and God at the same time.
- We need the wisdom and discernment provided by the Holy Spirit to know how to keep those in balance.
- As Christians we are citizens of heaven.
- But that doesn't mean that we can ignore the laws and demands of the government of the land that we are living in (**Romans 13:1-2**).

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

- As believers we are called to balance the laws and demands of God with the laws and demands of the government God has placed over us.
- And where those two come into conflict God wins!
- Jesus silences the first group – another is right behind them.
- **Matthew 22:23**
- The Sadducees were another sect of the Jewish religion that believed in a much more liberal lifestyle than the Pharisees did.
- They accepted only the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, as the inspired Word of God.
- They were very materialistic and did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, angels, or eternal life.
- They are going to try to trap Jesus using a story that proves Jesus is wrong about heaven and eternal life.
- **Matthew 22:24**
- This is the levirate marriage law found in Deuteronomy 25.
- It was meant to ensure that a man's family line did not die out and that his possession in the Promised Land would not be lost.
- The biblical account of Boaz and Ruth are an example of this law in action.
- It is interesting that they would use this illustration because this law was no longer practiced.
- **Matthew 22:25-28**

- Their understanding of heaven was that it was an extension of life on the earth and all the same rules and principles applied.
- **Matthew 22:29**
- Jesus told them that they were ignorant of their own scriptures and the power of God.
- The Sadducees couldn't understand the resurrection of the dead.
- And because they couldn't understand it, they chose not to believe it.
- Just because we don't understand something doesn't mean it isn't the truth.
- There are a lot of things in the Bible that are very difficult to understand.
- Don't allow yourself to get all twisted up in things that God hasn't opened up for you to understand.
- You might need to grow up in your faith more to understand it (**1 Corinthians 3:1-2**).

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able...

- Just this week my grandson, Harvey, said as I was bringing him and his sister home from school, 'Papa doesn't know everything about the Bible!'
- He went on to say that you can study the Bible your whole life and not understand everything.
- That is pretty insightful for a six-year-old.
- As we grow and mature in the Lord we are able to handle deeper and greater truths.
- As we are reading and studying the Bible we will come across these deeper truths that God has not prepared us to receive.
- If we try to take it in anyway we are like a little baby that just has a couple of teeth chewing on a steak; we will expend a lot of energy and end up getting nowhere.
- And if we are able to bite off a piece, we might end up choking ourselves on something that is too mature for us.
- If you don't understand something, ask God to reveal the truth to you.

- If He doesn't, move on and trust that He will when you are ready to receive it.
- Jesus tries to correct their theology.
- **Matthew 22:30**
- Marriage was instituted by God to populate the earth with people who would worship God and be in a relationship with Him.
- The primary, but not the only, purpose of marriage is procreation.
- Once we are all resurrected in heaven there will be no more death and we will constantly worship God; therefore, eliminating the need for marriage.
- The Bible does not give any idea about the nature of our relationships in heaven, but it is heaven, so I am okay with whatever it is.
- In heaven all our focus will be on God and His Son.
- 'like the angels' – they don't get married and neither will we be married.
- **Matthew 22:31-33**
- 'I am' is in the present tense.
- If the patriarchs had ceased to exist as the Sadducees believed, God would have said 'I was.'
- God always uses the right words.
- One of the reasons why I love the Bible is because its words are so perfect and powerful.
- I have studied the Bible diligently for about 25 years and as Harvey rightly said, I still don't know everything there is to know about this book.
- That excites me and motivates me to keep mining for the riches of this radical book.
- You may never have to deal with verbal confrontations like Jesus is here, but knowing God's Word, believing it is straight from the heart and mind of God, and obeying it as the revealed will of God will lead you to the abundant life Jesus promised us.
- Let's pray and ask God to stir up a deep abiding passion for His Word and commit to growing in knowledge, faith, and obedience.
- **Pray!** Worship Team plays the last song!