

Title ideas:
The King is Tested! – Used already.
The King is Challenged!
The King's Words!

Matthew 22:15-33 - The King's Words!

Scriptures:

Proverbs 25:11 -

A word fitly spoken is like
apples of gold

In settings of silver.

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.

1^P Then the Pharisees went and plotted how

G4824/G2983 -

they might entangle Him in *His* talk.

G3802 – catch in
a mistake.

G3056 - λόγος
(logos).

Notes:

Words are important. The right words at the right time can have a powerful effect on the hearer ([Proverbs 25:11](#)). James wrote that the tongue, our words also have great power to destroy ([James 3:5-6](#)). A man or woman who has control over their tongue is truly strong.

Today, we will look at the first two of three encounters 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 and then make up charges until they find something they can use to hand Him over to the Romans for crucifixion.

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.

Scriptures:

16 And they ^P sent to Him ^H their disciples with

the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know

G1492 -

that You are true, and teach the way of God in

G227 – truthful,
honest.

truth; nor do You care about anyone, for

G3199 -

You do not regard the person of men.

G991 -

Notes:

'we know' – There are three ways to relate to the revealed Word of God. You can know it but not believe it or obey it. You can know it and believe it is the Word of God but not obey it. Or you can know it, believe it, and obey it. Obvious, the last one is how God wants us to relate to it. These guys fall into the first category. 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.

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 that have sided with Herod so that they can enjoy the pleasures that 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.

Scriptures:

17 Tell us, therefore, what do You think?

Notes:

“Is it lawful...’ – This is a highly charged political question. Many believed that paying taxes to Rome was the equivalent of supporting the oppressors and all their evil and wicked practices. Others supported for what the Romans provided, included the opportunity for financial benefit.

Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

G1832 – permissible.

G1325 -

G2778 -

The Pharisees believed that 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.

Scriptures:

18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and

Notes:

‘Jesus perceived’ – Jesus knew what they were doing.

G1097 -

G4189 – “depravity (perversion) n. — the perverting of virtue and moral principles from their purposes to evil ends.”

said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?”

G3985 – try to trap.

Scriptures:

19 Show Me the tax money.” So they brought

Notes:

Him a denarius.

Scriptures:

20 And He said to them, “Whose image and

Notes:

inscription *is* this?”

Scriptures:

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.

21 They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said

Notes:

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.

to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the

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).

things that are Caesar’s, and to God the

things that are God’s.”

Scriptures:

22 When they had heard ^{P+H} *these words*,

Notes:

^{P+H} they marveled, and left ^H Him and went ^{P+H} their

way.

Scriptures:

23 The same day the Sadducees, who say

there is no resurrection, came to Him and

G386 -

asked Him,

Notes:

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, angels, or eternal life.

Scriptures:

24 saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man

dies, having no children, his brother shall

marry his wife and raise up offspring for his

brother.

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

²⁵ Now there were with us seven brothers.

Notes:

The first died after he had married, and

having no offspring, left his wife to his

brother.

Scriptures:

²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third,

Notes:

even to the seventh.

Scriptures:

27 Last of all the woman died also.

Notes:

Scriptures:

28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife

Notes:

Their understanding of heaven was that it was an extension of life on the earth and all the same rules and principles applied.

of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”

Scriptures:

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. 2 I 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...

29 ^S Jesus answered and said to them, ^S

"You are mistaken, not knowing the

G4105 - wander about, move about without purpose, stray from the truth, deceive; (pass.) be deluded.

G1492 - comprehend the meaning of.

Scriptures nor the power of God.

G1124 - γραφαί (graphai), written words.

G1411 - δύναμις (dynamis), supernatural power.

Notes:

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](#)).

Just this week [May 2024] 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.

Scriptures:

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry

nor are given in marriage, but are like

angels of God in heaven.

Notes:

When we are resurrected to eternal life we will not be married. Some of you might be thinking that is good news. If so, you need to repent!

Marriage was instituted by God to populate the earth with people that could 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 relationship to one another. In heaven all our focus will be on God and His Son.

In verse 30 there is a statement that we need to be careful of. It says 'are like the angels. That doesn't mean that we are going to be like the angels. It is saying that the angels do not get married, and neither will we.

Scriptures:

31 But concerning the resurrection of the

Notes:

dead, have you not read what was spoken to

you by God, saying,

Scriptures:

Genesis 26:24 - And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."

32 *'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,*

Notes:

There were many Scriptures Jesus could have used to challenge them on their unbelief in the reality of resurrection, but Jesus chose one out of Genesis because the Sadducees only believe in the first five books of the Old Testament.

and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of

'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.

the dead, but of the living."

Scriptures:

33 And when the multitudes heard *this*,

Notes:
Next time, we will look at the next
'test' that will come from the
Pharisees.

they were astonished at His teaching.

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)