

Matthew 22.34-46

Stop and Think!

If you're KEEPING SCORE – Team JESUS is WINNING – by a LOT, Shutout Really ONLY One Member of Team – Nazarene – but he has Slain his 10,000's Won all the POINTS > Goals, Strokes, Touchdowns, Home Runs, SLAM DUNK Began THEOLOGICAL Decathlon turned to CAGE Match > Fight to DEATH

His Opponent – Team RELIGION – Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees Making GREAT Effort – Throwing TOUGH Questions > Jesus Better Answers For Team Religion Winning ENHANCE their STATUS before MEN

JESUS > Whole Life's Purpose EXTEND SALVATION to all MEN Nothing TO PROVE > Nothing CAN or COULD Enhance his GLORY Rather, HE hopes they will Stop and Think!

## 1. Summary of our Guilt

### a. Perfect Law

the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Romans 7.12

613 LAWS in TORAH – 5 Books Moses - 365 NEGATIVE / 248 POSITIVE

Pharisaical Lawyer came to JESUS with DUBIOUS MOTIVES...

v. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

Like ORDINATION Council > Ask POTENTIAL Minister TOUGH Questions HOSTILE Atmosphere, No CELEBRATION Planned – Expect this Boy to FAIL

IMPORTANT Question > WHICH Laws were MOST IMPORTANT?

v. 28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

Jesus is bound to DISAPPOINT Someone – God gave 600+ Laws – 10 on Stone  
Probably Law GROUPIES that had their FAVORITES and their WEB SITES  
Best is... Do Not Murder, Honor Parents, small group SKIN DISEASE Laws?

But AUTHOR of ALL the Laws – Knows their ORDER and IMPORTANCE  
vs. 29–31 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself' There is no commandment greater than these"

LINKS 2 Laws – 1 from DEUTERONOMY another from LEVITICUS

The first without the second is intrinsically impossible, and the second cannot stand without the first – even theoretically – because disciplined altruism is not love. Love in the truest sense demands abandonment of self to God, and God alone is the adequate incentive for such abandonment. D.A. Carson

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.  
1 John 4.20

Jesus goes to FOUNDATION of ENTIRE LAW > LOVE for GOD & Neighbor

vs. 32,33 "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Brilliant Reply > Mark records Favorable Reaction from Asker, AGREED

"You are not far from the kingdom of God" Mark 12.34

SAD Truth for LOTS of RELIGIOUS People – Even HERE in THIS Room

NOT Far from Kingdom – Standing before THE King

But these Leaders are Heading Rapidly in the Opposite Direction

## b. Imperfect Lawbreakers True Religion Perfect Love for God and Man

Behind QUESTION Idea of Human MERIT: Which ones MOST IMPT to KEEP

Their Thought > RIGHT about LAW – THEN you're RIGHT with GOD

JEWS DIVIDED God's Laws into HEAVY and LIGHT > Focus on Heavy

Their THINKING was FOOLISH > Break ONE Law , BROKEN ALL

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. James 2.10,11

Jesus' answer underlined the fact that any man's attempt to measure himself against the law for his own reassurance is bound to lead to disaster, because the very first law requires comprehensive, universal, undiluted love for God with every ounce of one's being. And, it carries with it a clear implication – we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves! Sinclair Ferguson

VERY Obvious > Religious Leaders display HATRED for GOD and MAN

PLOTTING to Kill GOD-MAN – JESUS is their GOD and their NEIGHBOR

Jesus is Love Incarnate > ONLY Jesus can Love God the Father w/ All his ALL

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here" John 8.42

The Bible is full of many wonderful ethical commands, which would be very inspiring except for the fact that we are not wonderful, ethical people. Kevin DeYoung

Paul the Pharisee: "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin...For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members" Romans 7.14-23

John 8 – Scribes & Pharisees bring Jesus WOMAN Caught in ADULTERY  
 NOT Sure where the MAN was > She Must FACE this MOB Alone  
 Righteous Religious Leaders DEMAND the Penalty of Law of Moses > DEATH

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. John 8.6

ONLY TIME in Bible Jesus WROTE > Debating 2000 yrs. ‘What did He write?’  
 Writing on Ground > Message for Accusers? For Woman? Sins? Name of Man?

It was TEMPLE Courtyard – Not White, Wet, Writeable SANDS of Waikiki!  
 Doodling for Dramatic Effect? Highly Doubt they Could REALLY READ It

Maybe Importance NOT MESSAGE but THE MEDIUM: Sand = Broken Rock  
 Finger of God wrote Law on Tablet of Stone > Now Finger of God Exposes Guilt

Not ONE LAW UNBROKEN > No One Righteous > Woman & ACCUSERS  
 God’s Truth SMASHED to Bits > DECALOGUE turned into DUST

O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you will be put to shame. *Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust* because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water. Jeremiah 17.13

v. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Nothing in Scripture can cohere or be obeyed unless these two commands are observed. The entire biblical religion demands heart religion marked by total allegiance to God, loving Him and neighbor. Without these the Bible is sterile.  
Douglas Moo

FAILED to Keep the Law / FORSAKEN the PROPHETS

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Matthew 23.29,32

## 2. Savior who offers Grace

Now Jesus' Turn > QUESTION for His Interrogators and Chief Enemies  
He had SUCCESSFUL Passed thru their GAUNTLET of Trick Questions

Just 1 QUESTION > Can these Legal Experts RIGHTLY Interpret Scripture??  
1<sup>st</sup> & ONLY time Jesus INITATES Discussion on TEXT of Scripture: Psalm 110

Psalm 110 Greatest and Clearest of the Messianic Psalms

RECKLESS. Extravagant Descriptions of God's FOREVER, COSMIC Rule  
Worked so Well for Master > MOST Quoted OT Text in NT – almost 30 X's  
KEY to His QUESTION – What is MESSIAH's relationship to DAVID?

a. David's Son – first, Obviously he is....

vs. 41,42 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

Faithful Jews read Psalm 110 > Enthronement of Expected Messiah

They thought the answer was easy. "The son of David," >> Correct!!

Many OT Texts taught David's Descendants would Reign on his Throne Forever

Thru Matthew's Gospel > Jesus is OFTEN called the SON of DAVID

b. David's Lord

vs. 43-45 He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?"

Apparently Easy Question becomes Profound and Searching ISSUE

No Father calls his Son "Lord" - Sons are Subservient to Fathers

If David calls Descendant his "Lord" > One to Come is Greater than David

Jesus POINT – ‘Son of David’ is not ONLY or ULTIMATE Status of Messiah  
 Yes! He is David’s Son – BUT He is EVEN MORE than you Know!  
 Jesus DOES NOT Answer His Own QUESTION – NOBODY Does!

**Messianic king is not only David’s Son but also David’s Lord**

David Claimed HIS BODY would NOT ROT in Grave > BUT IT DID!

David PROPHESED > SON of David, ROOT of David, LORD of DAVID

**Jesus LORD of LIFE > INDESTRUCTIBLE Nature of RISEN LORD**

LIKE All Prophetic Literature > MESSAGE for PRESENT AND FUTURE

God DID Establish and Extend DAVID’S KINGDOM in his Day

EMPIRE of David’s Son & Lord GROWING from Strength to Strength TODAY

“He [Jesus] ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the  
 Father Almighty”  
 Apostles’ Creed

Ancient World > Sit at Right Hand = Place of Honor / Royal Dignity & Power

v. 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord,  
 saying...

Our Lord gave full weight to David’s authorship and David’s words

Peter preached on this text on the Day of Pentecost

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised  
 Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not  
 ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right  
 hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." "Therefore let all Israel  
 be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and  
 Christ."  
 Acts 2.33-36

He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day,  
 he rose from the grave.  
 Masai Creed

c. Divine Amen!

1<sup>st</sup> C JEWS People of PROMISE, Varying DEGREES of FAITH in PROMISES  
SOME Given Up HOPE in God, 400 yrs Passed since LAST Prophet MALACHI

Faithful Remnant– DOGGEDLY Held Fast to Promises of Sacred Scripture  
Different JEWISH Groups had DIFFERING EXPECTATIONS of FUTURE  
PROPHET Greater than MOSES / SERVANT of Isaiah / KING like David

Some Looked for DAY of the LORD that MESSIAH would bring  
Various Promises Hebrew Scripture: Anticipated DIFFERENT People/Times  
NEVER in WILDEST DREAMS even Most Faithful Jew > All in Just 1 MAN

WILDEST Dreams Come TRUE: His Name is JESUS

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1.19,20

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen..’”  
Revelation 3.14

AMEN – So BE IT! – Yes, Lord, Yes, Lord, Yes, Lord, Yes!

In JESUS CHRIST its ALL GONNA HAPPEN

FIRST & FINAL Verses of our Text Today > Jesus’ ENEMIES are SILENCED

v. 34 he had silenced the Sadducees

v. 46 And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SILENCED but they were NOT SAVED, Went Underground to Plan MURDER

If they were WISE > They would have CONFESSED they were BESTED

A Wise Person would have **Stopped and Listened!**

REALIZED their ARMS ARE TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD!

Another Pharisee later came to Accept what they Did Not...

“gospel...promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead”  
Romans 1.2–4

ETERNAL, Always EXISTENT God, BECAME Man in His INCARNATION  
Particular Point in TIME AND SPACE – Eternal GOD Entered History as Baby  
Jesus is a Divine Messiah and Savior; he is Both man and God.

What a tremendous gulf there is between God’s evaluation of his beloved Son and the...scorn of these very Pharisees.  
James Boice

v. 44 ““The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””

Those who FIGHT His Lordship will be BROKEN by It, Enemies His Footstool  
Jesus is LORD Now and Forever – We BOW to Him or will be BROKEN

During US Civil War BOTH North and South claimed GOD on their SIDE

“Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right”  
Abraham Lincoln



### 3. Serving after believing the Gospel

#### a. All Religions are the Same?

Some say ALL RELIGIONS are the SAME > All TEACH the Need for LOVE  
 The Beatles lead the Choir for GLOBAL Religion “All you Need is LOVE!”  
 TRUE that LOVE is Highest IDEAL Espoused by SEVERAL RELIGIONS

NO AGREEMENT on How to DEFINE Love > PUPPIES or PEOPLE?

Ray Comfort asks young People if Building on FIRE only time to Save  
 DOG or your Neighbor – Which would you Save? – MOST Admitted DOG!

But None of us Can Love Perfectly > Why we Need a Savior > We need Jesus  
 You need Jesus > the Only Possible Savior > Your Rightful Lord

#### b. There are Just Two Religions – and they’re Radically Different!

We’ll LOVE MORE or BETTER by TRYING HARDER!

Read Love Poems – Sing Love Songs – Watch CHICK Flicks

More we THINK about LOVE > More SELFISH we can Become

2 Religions in World: 1 Diverse, Lots of Traditions, Books, Leaders, Rituals  
 Common Theme – I CAN DO IT! – Love Enough, Pray Enough, Give, Sacrifice  
 FAST, Serve, Hajj, Study the Rules and Rituals >>> I CAN DO IT!!  
 Various Ways > EARN Favor with God, Pave my PATH to Paradise

Other – Narrow Gate, Hard Road, Few Find It > I CANNOT Do It

Left to Myself – I HATE God AND MY Neighbor

Only Person I Consistently LOVE is Myself!

Have Nothing Eternally Good or Righteous to OFFER to God

Even my Best Prayers could SEND ME TO HELL

For some AMAZING, WONDERFUL, Unknown Reason > Loved by God

Jesus Christ is the very essence of Christianity. He is the Lord...there is no reasonable or right option open to you other than your complete allegiance to him.

James Boice

God the Son my Savior – took my Sin and Guilt – gave me Righteousness

He REMOVED my LOVELESS Heart of STONE

Replaced with NEW Heart > with this God-given New Heart, Love God & Man

Now, Forgiven by the Son, Filled with the Spirit...

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5.14

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1.5

LAW NOT given to BIND and BURDEN but to BLESS and LIBERATE

True RELIGION NOT for LEGALISM but LIBERTY to LOVE God & Man

Love and do as you like.

Augustine

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Matthew 22.34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” 41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43 said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 44 ““The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””? 45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” 46 And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.