

Matthew 22.15-33

Death and Taxes

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Benjamin Franklin

Text > Jesus address BOTH of these TIMELESS Topics

Probably TUESDAY of Most Important Week of Human History – Holy Week

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday by way of Good Friday

Jesus of Nazareth – Is IN Full AUTHORITY, AND under FULL ATTACK

Told 3 PARABLES > Shamed & Exposed Religious Leaders – Selfish & Corrupt

He has REFUTED their LEGITIMACY and REJECTED their LEADERSHIP

1. Enemies of our Lord

a. Jesus Unites

He has UNITED US HERE today to WORSHIP Him and Listen to His WORD
PEOPLE of every CULTURE, COLOR, & CITIZENSHIP gather Before Him

Our Text: OTHER Side of Coin > ENEMIES of Jesus UNITED against Him
STORM Clouds of Opposition GROW DARKER thru Gospel of Matthew

v. 13 Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him
in his words.

Trying to WIN Support of People for their TREACHERY by setting TRAPS
With CLEVER Questions intended to CONFOUND Self-Proclaimed CHRIST
UNITED in EVIL they HATE this Message, making plans to KILL Messenger

Only Question for Them > HOW can they KILL Jesus and STAY SAFE?

They want to LURE Jesus to utter some BLASPHEMY > CAPITAL Offense

vs. 15,16 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his
words... along with the Herodians

Pharisees **HARD-LINERS** who saw **POLL TAX** as Sign of **ROMAN SLAVERY**
Herodians **MODERN COMPROMISERS** to stay in **POLITICAL FAVOR**

Historic **ENEMIES** found **COMMON ENEMY** > **UPSTART** from **NAZARETH**

Jewish **RELIGIOUS** Leaders been **PLOTTING** for **MANY MONTHS**

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

Matthew 12.14

v. 23 The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question

Sadducees > **ARISTOCRATIC** Party incl. **HIGH PRIEST** & Leading Families

Their **LIVELIHOOD** was **DIRECTLY** Bolstered by Taxes > **PAID** by **ROME**

b. **Jesus Enrages** v. 16 “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.”

Words **CAREFULLY DESIGNED** to **PREVENT** any **EVASION** by Jesus

FORCED Him to **ANSWER** > because of **INTEGRITY** and **FEARLESSNESS**

v. 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?”

GREAT TRAGEDY > People come to **JESUS** and **LEARN NOTHING**

Questioners **WANT** to **HEAR** their **OWN VOICE** > **NOT** Listen to **MASTER**

UNDERSTAND EXASPERATION on Jesus’ Part > Been There, Done That

the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven...

Matthew 16.1

Muteya iciliba cenjela: nga cakufwanta wilila - “Be careful when you are setting a trap; if it falls on you do not cry”

Bemba proverb, Zambia

2. Ethics of Life: *Taxes and Death*

a. Render Taxes

v. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

EXPLOSIVE Topic > 6 AD > 1st Imposed by ROME on Province of JUDEA

A Pharisee named Gamaliel... addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel... Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered Acts 5.34,37

THEN Judas the Galilean – called it SLAVERY & Attack on Sovereignty of God
ZEALOTS REFUSED to Pay Tax because was Acknowledgement of CAESAR

PHARISEES feared MORAL & RELIGIOUS Implications of Roman Laws

HERODIANS Concerned by POLITICAL & NATIONALISTIC Consequences

If Jesus says – YES! Pay Taxes to Rome > DISCREDIT Him in Eyes of People

NO! Payment of Taxes to Rome > DANGER of being ARREST for SEDITION

Jesus shows DISCIPLES the Truth of what He had told them to Do...

When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Matthew 10.19,20

v. 19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

BRING Coin: WHY Not Have? Jesus POVERTY? or Jesus' PRINCIPLES?

Jews in PALESTINE > COPPER COIN without IMAGE of Emperor

Jesus ENEMIES have NO PROBLEM finding a ROMAN SILVER COIN



Small Silver Roman DENARIUS – Only Coin Acceptable for TAXES

1 Side > PORTRAIT of Emperor TIBERIUS – Semi-god son of AUGUSTUS

Inscription: “Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the Divine Augustus”

OTHER Side > “Pontifex Maximus” – IMPERIAL CULT

v. 21 “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Jesus MOVES Discussion from POLITICS to PRINCIPLE

PORTRAIT on COIN reflects RIGHT of SOVEREIGN over Territory of its USE

Common Idea > Emperor OWNED the Coins that bore HIS IMAGE

CARRYING and USING COINS of CAESAR > Sign of SUBMISSION to him

Word for “GIVE” > **“to pay a debt, to pay back”** > **OWE for SERVICES**

ROLE of State > Roads, Mail, Utilities, Protection, Fire Safety, Gov’t Workers

Jesus did NOT come to Establish THEOCRATIC STATE

NOT come to OVERTHROW Existing POLITICAL ORDER

NOT come to END World THEN > set up HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM Yet

Clear DISTINCTION btwn God & Caesar > CONTRA IDOLATROUS Claim

The first part of Jesus’ answer reinforced Caesar’s authority, even in such an unpopular matter as taxes. The second part drew limits. Although the state has a God-given and therefore legitimate authority, the authority of God is greater. Therefore, those who know God must worship and obey him even if, in some cases, it means disobeying Caesar.

James Boice

b. Ready for Death

v. 23 The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question...

BEFORE Jesus can RECOVER from 1st Attack > Enemies LAUNCH Another POLITICAL Attempt to SNARE Jesus FAILED...Now Theological TRICK

(The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.) Acts 23:8

Strict Materialists of Time, Not Believe in Any Spiritual Reality

NO RESURRECTION – NO FUTURE HOPE – WHY they're **SAD U SEE!**

Sadducees Accepted ONLY PENTATEUCH as AUTHORITATIVE Scripture
Believed RESURRECTION a LATER INVENTION of Jewish Innovators

They had refused to accept God's further revelation in the Old Testament: now, they would refuse to accept God's final revelation in Jesus. R. Alan Cole

v. 24 "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.'

Common Rabbinic Method > SCRIPTURE and an ILLUSTRATIVE STORY

If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. Deuteronomy 25:5-6

LEVIRITE Law > from LATIN word 'LEVIR' = Brother in Law

INTENDED for ECONOMIC PROTECTION of WIDOW

vs. 25-28 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

1 Woman eventually has 7 Husbands! > from book of TOBIT in Apocrypha

Crowd must have SMILED and LAUGHED at this FOOLISH Picture

Sadducee's NOT Interested in MORAL or LEGAL Question of Issue

>>> HOW RIDICULOUS it is to BELIEVE in this SUPPOSED Resurrection

The kind of question every Sadducee's son asked every Pharisee's son in primary school! No one had ever found an answer to it.... Sinclair Ferguson

v. 29 But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

ROOT of Error: IGNORANCE in God's SCRIPTURE and God's STRENGTH
Deny God's PROMISES & POWER / Neglect God's WORD & God's WORK
having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power... 2 Timothy 3.5

These are not two forms of error but one, with the second part being the logical result of the first part. Those who have a superficial knowledge of the Bible will not know the power of God. Joe Kapoloyo

We need BOTH Scripture AND God's POWER in HEALTHY Interaction

POWER of God: Able to Create UNSEEN & VISIBLE World / Lord of BOTH

We speak of the Bible's authority, infallibility, and inerrancy, and we ascribe these qualities to it because, as Jesus taught, the Bible is the very Word of God.

James Boice

vs. 31,32 And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”

Jesus ROOTS His belief in RESURRECTION in TORAH Itself

KNOWS Sadducees TEXT BOOK better than They Do > HE WROTE It!

It would be a tawdry salvation which lasted only for this life...Deny the resurrection and you become a practical atheist. Sinclair Ferguson

LIVING God is FOREVER Faithful to His PEOPLE who LIVE in Him

If DEATH has LAST WORD > COVENANT Promises of God are SHAM

...our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel 2 Timothy 1.10-11

c. Right with God v. 21 “...and to God the things that are God’s.”

IMAGE of CAESAR stamped on COINS / Image of GOD on HUMAN BEINGS
Sees ENEMIES > IMAGE of God STAMPED on their Lives > BELONG to Him
OBLIGATIONS to State do NOT VIOLATE OBEDIENCE to Sovereign God

3. Eternity is a Long Time

a. How about the Mrs.?

v. 28 In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

1) Muslims: “*You want her?*”

“. . . I stood at the gate of the Fire [Hell] and saw that the majority of those who entered it were women." When a women asked Muhammad why there were more women in Hell than men, he replied, "You curse frequently and are ungrateful to

your husbands. I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you. A cautious sensible man could be led astray by some of you."

Prophet Muhammad

Islam: Man may have 4 "Permanent" Wives, any number of "Provisional" Wives
Muslim Man LEGAL Right to NEVER have another LONELY NIGHT Again!

"Marry such women as seem good to you, two, three, four; but if you fear you will not be equitable, then only one, or what your right hands own; so it is likelier you will not be partial... your women are a tillage for you; so come unto your tillage as you wish "

Prophet Muhammad

After DEATH > Men enter PARADISE and get 72 BEAUTIFUL NEW WIVES

"The smallest reward for the people of paradise (i.e. men!) is an abode where there are 80,000 servants and 72 wives..."

Prophet Muhammad

Once again, the man has all the advantages and pleasures, while the woman must be perpetually used for his purposes. His is the pleasure - hers the disturbance, in this world and the next.

Ibn 'Abbas

"A woman who gives trouble to her husband in this world will hear the pure-eyed virgin ones [one of the 72] say to her: 'Do not give him trouble. May Allah destroy you, He is only a passing guest with you and it is very near that he will soon leave you to come to us'...No woman should give trouble and anxiety to her husband. She is to give him ease and comfort in the household. If she acts otherwise, she will not be able to be his mate in Paradise. There the pure-eyed virgin girls will be his consorts."

Al-'Ouaza'i

"Watch how you treat your husband for he is your Paradise and your Hell."

Prophet Muhammad

With 72 Beautiful Virgins waiting for MAN > Does Muslim man Need Wife?

Some OLD Muslim men – born before VIAGRA - wondered about 72 Women?

"A man in paradise shall be given virility equal to that of one hundred men."

Prophet Muhammad

What HORMONE-FILLED Teenage Muslim Boy would NOT Want to Strap on Suicide Belt & be BLASTED into BED with 72 Voluptuous Virgins?

2) Mormons: *Of Course you Need her!*

Both MORMONS and MUSLIMS teach MARRIAGE TRANSCENDS Death
MORMONS > Marriages SEALED for ETERNITY in their TEMPLES

Perhaps the greatest promise of Mormonism is the doctrine of celestial marriage. Celestial marriage refers to a type of marriage which Mormons believe is intended to last beyond the grave and through eternity... It is part of the full authority of God, or the priesthood. Lost to the earth after the death of the early apostles, the priesthood was restored to Joseph Smith, the first Mormon prophet. By heavenly decree the priesthood and constituent sealing power were passed from Joseph to others, including the apostles, in the Mormon Church... If a man and woman have been married only by a civilly recognized authority (such as a government or religious representative), their marriage will end at death. They can, however, work towards gaining permission to enter a Mormon temple and be sealed together so that their marriage will be "bound" on both earth and in heaven... Truly, the Mormon Church is the very restoration of the full gospel of Jesus Christ in these modern times.

Rick Satterfield

"The doctrine of plural and celestial marriage is the most holy and important doctrine ever revealed to man on earth, and that without obedience to that principle no man can ever attain to the fullness of exaltation in celestial glory"

Doctrine and Covenants

Mormon Message to SINGLES > MARRIAGE will make you COMPLETE
ONE Way or ANOTHER > You WILL get MARRIED – on Earth or HEAVEN
WITHOUT Marriage > you NEVER Attain the HIGHEST Level of HEAVEN

It can be tough to be surrounded by lots of families and to see all the emphasis that the Church puts on families and temple marriage... Those who desire the blessings of eternal marriage but have not found the right person... God will provide the blessings of eternity for those who are now single. Perhaps it means being sealed to someone after this life is over, or perhaps it means being patient for unexpected blessings in this life.

Jeff Lindsay

REASON > Wife Needed – Faithful Mormons become God’s of Own Universe

ADAM is the god of the Universe we NOW Live In

Need WIFE – Many WIVES – to POPULATE OUR OWN New UNIVERSE

Founder Joseph Smith 34 WIVES: 10 teens, 11 taken from living husbands

3) Master – *All you Really Need!*

v. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Sadducees MISTAKEN about CHARACTER of Resurrection Life

Jesus does NOT say we WILL BECOME Angels > Fully Redeemed Humans!

“like” Angels = Sexless, Not Married, or given in Marriage

Popular Jewish Idea THEN: Heaven is CONTINUATION of Earthly Life

TODAY > Many People project Earthly Experience into Heaven

Gonna get my Big House, Car, Fancy PHONE in Heaven!

See that on Street Corners > People burning Papers of these for Ancestors to Get!

EARLIER > Matthew 19 > Marriage should NOT be Broken in LIFE

NOW Jesus Teaches > Marriage IS BROKEN by DEATH

By law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but *if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.* Romans 7:2

Resurrection is transformation, not just re-animation.

P.S. Minear

There are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another...The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:35-44

Resurrection is not the restoration of life as we know it; it is the entrance into a new life that is different...In the eternal state, where our new bodies are perfect and there is no state of death, there will be no need for marriage, procreation, and the continuance of the race.

Warren Wiersbe

Does NOT mean Husband & Wife will NO Longer Know Eachother in Heaven
NOT Good Adam was ALONE > Saints in HEAVEN will be NEVER LONELY
Even NOW – No BELIEVER should be ALONE > FAMILY of God in CHRIST

Paul reveals its DEEPER REALITY as he Teaches about MARRIAGE

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." *This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

Ephesians 5:31-33

Everyone in heaven will be so head-over-heels in love with everyone else as to render unthinkable an exclusive relationship such as marriage. In heaven you will have unbelievable closeness with people of both genders...warmth, intimacy and depth of eternal relationships.... so much more fulfilling than earthly ones...Do you think the Creator of sex has reached his limit in his ability to give us pleasure and fulfillment?... Every Christian is destined for them. All we need do is remain faithful in this life, allowing ourselves to be captivated by the beauty of Jesus.

Grantley Morris

There WILL BE a Wedding in Heaven – We ALL will be HIS Glorious BRIDE

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"

Revelation 19:6-9

OTHER 2 Religions > THEIR Heaven SO HUMAN – Almost KINKY!

Highest GOAL & JOY is MARRIAGE > NOTHING about Marriage to JESUS

BIBLE >> JOY of those who Make It to Heaven – JESUS!

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9

HEAVEN will be BEYOND anything we have Every SEEN or KNOWN
Not just SUPER-SIZED Earthly BLESSINGS

b. Begins Now

And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. Matthew 22.46

OPPONENTS MARVELED at Jesus' Word > Saw REAL Authority in HIM

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3.1-2

ALL of Life should be CENTERED on COMMUNION with God NOW

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10.31

Seeking a SPOUSE?? They should LOVE JESUS MORE than they LOVE You!
Anything LESS is NOT LOVING GOD FIRST > Making Spouse your IDOL

Important Question > WHAT Relationships are IMPORTANT in the Afterlife?

Those Decisions can ONLY be Made THIS SIDE of Death

Doctrine of Resurrection should SPUR us to Evangelism > Decide to Follow X
GREATEST LOVER and Friend – Know Him Now – One who DIED & ROSE
One whose GIFT of Salvation can be YOURS, Love that TRANSCENDS Death

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my
portion forever. Psalm 73.25-26

Matthew 22.15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 21 They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away. 23 The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, 24 saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.’ 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. 26 So too the second and third, down to the seventh. 27 After them all, the woman died. 28 In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.” 29 But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31 And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” 33 And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.