



**PEEPL'S VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit



OJT (On the Job Training) in the Way of Holiness

Matthew 21:15-46 KJV

JUNE 28th 2019 / 25 TAMUZ 5779

There are four questions involved in this public discussion, three of them from the enemy, and one from Jesus Christ.

The Enemy asked A Political Question about Taxes (Matt. 22:15-22)

The Question about God and Caesar: The Two Citizenships, 22:15-22

15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in *his* talk. 16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any *man*: for thou regardest not the person of men. 17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? **Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?** 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? 19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. 20 And he saith unto them, whose *is* this image and superscription? 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. 22 When they had heard *these words*, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

The Enemy asked A Doctrinal Question about the Resurrection (Matt. 22:23-33)

The Question About The Resurrection: The Resurrection Denied, Yet Proven, 22:23-33

23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, 24 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. 27 And last of all the woman died also. 28 **Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.** 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. 31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. 33 And when the multitude heard *this*, they were astonished at his doctrine.

The Enemy asked An Ethical Question about the Law (Matt. 22:34-40)

The Question About the Great Commandment: A Study of Love, 22:34-40

34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, *which* was a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, 36 **Master, which is the great commandment in the law?** 37 Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second *is* like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Jesus asked a Personal Question about the Messiah (Matt. 22:41-46)

The Question Asked by Jesus: What Think Ye of Messiah? 22:41-46

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, **Jesus asked them,** 42 Saying, **what think ye of Christ? whose son is he?** They say unto him, *The Son* of David. 43 He saith unto them, **how then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,** 44 **The LORD said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?** 45 If David then call him Lord, **how is he his son?** 46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more *questions*.

Intro.

On Tuesday of Passover week, our Lord's enemies tried to trap Him by using a series of "loaded" questions. These men were still smarting from the treatment they had received in the series of parables He had given. He had exposed their evil intentions and warned them that they were only asking for judgment. The religious leaders did not enjoy being humiliated before the crowds. They were wholeheartedly bent on destroying Jesus, and they hoped to trap Him into saying something that would permit them to arrest Him.

But there was another reason for the questions, one that His enemies did not realize. Jesus was going to die as the Lamb of God, and it was necessary for the lamb to be examined before Passover (Ex. 12:3-6). If any blemish whatsoever was found on the lamb, it could not be sacrificed. Jesus was examined publicly by His enemies, and they could find no fault in Him. Of course, this personal interchange between our Lord and the religious leaders was also an opportunity for them to believe and be saved. In fact, one Pharisee came very close to the kingdom (Mark 12:32-34). Even at the last minute, there is hope for the lost sinner, if he will receive the truth, repent, and believe.

Pharisees: the word means *the separated ones*. The Pharisees were strict religionists. Their religious sect arose about B.C. 175. A Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes, tried to stamp out the Jewish religion and replace it with Greek customs and practices. A number of Jewish men opposed this threat and determined among themselves to save the Jewish religion. They refused to practice Greek customs and dedicated themselves to practicing the Jewish law in the strictest sense. They felt that by carrying out every little detail of the Jewish law and by teaching others to do the same, they could save the Jewish religion and nation and keep it from dying out. (Matthew 12:10.) Several things should be noted. 1. They were the orthodox of their day—a sect or school of religious thought. They were organized solely for preserving the law and the Jewish religion. Thereby, they were to save the Jewish nation. 2. They were strict literalists. The Jewish law was expanded into thousands and thousands of little rules and regulations by the Scribes. These rules and regulations were known as the Scribal or Oral Law. More than fifty volumes or books were eventually needed to hold the regulations. 3. The Pharisees were a body of the most zealous religionists. 4. There were never many Pharisees—never more than 6,000. The strictness and demands of the sect were too hard for the common people. 5. They were in dead earnest—dedicated and zealous, self-denying, and moral. No man could give his life to so desperate and restrictive a task unless he was totally genuine. 6. They were self-righteous, heartless, and hypocritical (Luke 18:9). They lacked any sense of need or sin (Luke 7:39). 7. They were bitterly opposed to the Sadducees, hating and despising them, feeling that the Sadducees were traitors to the nation. However, the Pharisees were forced to quietly cooperate with the Sadducees because the Sadducees were the primary ruling party of the nation. 8. They were the main opponents of Jesus Christ and were unsparing in their denunciation of Him. Their savage attacks were primarily for two reasons. First, He was not a graduate of any of their rabbinical schools, nor a member of any of their religious sects. Second, He attacked their rules and regulations which had been added to God's law

Sadducees: the religious and political liberals of Christ's day. They were the wealthy, the aristocratic, the governing class of leaders in Israel. Many Sadducees served on the nation's governing body, the Sanhedrin. The Chief Priest himself was usually a Sadducee who presided over the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin ruled the people in behalf of the Roman empire (Acts 4:1-2; Acts 5:17). The Romans readily saw to it that the Sadducees held the positions of leadership in the nation, for the Sadducees favored Greek customs over Jewish customs. And they aided the Romans in doing away with religious practices and instituting Greek and Roman customs (Hellenism). They are thought to have arisen out of the same struggle as the Pharisees

around B.C. 175. However, they were always the fewest in number among the various sects of Jewish belief. 1. The Sadducees were secular and materialistic minded. They were the independent thinkers, the rationalists of their day. 2. They were heavily entrenched in the priesthood of Jesus' day (cp. Acts 4:1-2; Acts 5:17). They readily collaborated with the Roman government in order to protect their position, power, and wealth. 3. For the most part they denied the supernatural: the resurrection and miracles, life after death, and the existence of beings in other dimensions such as angels and spirits (Matthew 22:23; Acts 23:8). To them there was no heaven or hell, no existence whatsoever except on this earth. A man died and was annihilated, just ceased to exist. There was no such thing as rewards or punishment in an afterlife, no eternal life.

Herodians: the Herodians were not a religious party but a political party of Herod, the King of Galilee. They were supportive of Rome, compromising wherever they could in order to preserve their own power and influence. They had compromised to such a point that they gave some degree of consent to pagan temples. Religiously, they were mainly Sadducees who gave their first loyalty to the state (Acts 23:8). Thus, they opposed all Messianic claims because of the disturbance the claims caused among the people. They would agree that taxes must be paid to Caesar rather than to God.

How to Get Street Smart Holiness

1. You must know _____ . v.15-22
2. You must know the _____ . v.23-33
3. You must know your _____ . v.34-46

CONCLUSION

Making a decision about Jesus Christ is a matter of life or death. The evidence is there for all to examine. We can examine it defensively and miss the truth. Or we can examine it honestly and humbly, and discover the truth, believe, and be saved.

The religious leaders were so blinded by tradition, position, and selfish pride that they could not—and *would* not—see the truth and receive it. We dare not make the same mistake today. If you want to live holy, you've got to **keep your eyes wide open**. You've got to **keep your mind engaged**.

You've got to know people, so that you're aren't easily duped.

You've got to know the Bible, so that you can differentiate truth from error.

And you've got to know your priorities. Loving God and loving others need to be at the top of the list. This is what makes a **street-smart-saint**.