

Two Questions – with Evil Motives

Sermon 64 in the Matthew Series

Mathew 22:15-33

4 Questions, posed in the Temple area.

1. A Question on Taxes
2. A Question about the Resurrection
3. The Question about the Law
4. The Question concerning the Messiah

I. The Question of Taxes 22:15-22

Or in the broader context – how government and the gospel will interact in the New Covenant.

A. Their Intent clearly Displayed. 15-18

The Herodians were a Jewish party that actually welcomed Rome's occupation. They were the exact opposite of the Zealots, who wanted more than anything to overthrow Rome, thinking Messiah was THE ONE who would over throw Roman rule.

But, against a common foe – they unite.

1. Endorse tribute to Caesar, and the vast majority of the crowd will turn against Jesus.
2. Say, refuse to pay the tax, and the Herodians can go to their Roman officials and say that Jesus is promoting a revolution against the Roman government.

B. The Answer 19-22

Jesus affirmed the right of Rome to tax.

Jesus limits the role of Rome – Rome cannot have what belongs to God alone.

C. The Application -- Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17

1. Government is ordained by God.
2. Government is limited by God.

Caesar (in the sense of government) is to restrain evil.

Caesar is to protect its citizens life and property. As such – we do owe taxes.

The principle is given in Acts 4 – we must obey God, rather than man.

We (all Christians are) are members of Two Kingdoms.

II. The Resurrection 22:23-33

A. The Doctrine of the Sadducees v. 23

No life after death. No supernatural. No spirit realm. No angels.

B. The Hypothetical Case v. 24-28

Their point was to prove how ludicrous the whole idea of heaven would be. They had probably used this test case against the Pharisees in times past.

The Sadducees only accepted the first five books of Moses (Torah)

C. The Answer v. 29-33

1. They were absolutely deceived (literal translation) v. 29
2. The doctrine of the resurrection is true. v. 30
3. There is no need for marriage in the eternal state. v. 30
4. Angels do exist v. 30
5. They are ignorant of the very Scriptures (Torah) they claim to believe.
6. By implication, it is their great error to deny the rest of inspired Scripture (the prophets and the poetical books) and this also applies to the New Testament – which is still rejected by the Jewish religion.
7. He answers them from the Torah. Exodus 3:6, 15
Not the God of the dead, but of the living.