

Message #78**Matthew 22:23-46**

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, most in the religious world were out to kill Him. The plan was to try to lure Him into a discussion in which He would say something for which He could be condemned.

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL OR HOW INTELLIGENT THE RELIGIOUS GROUP, NO ONE COULD VERBALLY TRAP OR TRICK JESUS CHRIST.

ENTRAPMENT DISCUSSION #1 – The Sadducees try to trap Christ. 22:23-33

The Sadducees were the upper-class, wealthy religious group who controlled the temple, including its priesthood and rituals. The Sadducees only accepted the writings of Moses and they denied the resurrection, angels, spirit-beings, miracles, and future punishment and rewards (Acts 23:8). Christ condemned these Sadducees (Matt. 16:4, 7, 11) and they wanted Him out of the way just as bad as the Pharisees.

(Part #1) - The theological riddle. 22:24:28

The riddle is based on the Mosaic instruction found in Deut. 25:5-10. The riddle is this: there were seven brothers and the wife of one of the brothers had no children and her husband died. Therefore, she became the wife of the next brother and he died, and she ended up marrying all seven. She did not have any children, and then she died. Their question is whose wife she will be in the resurrection (v. 28). Now keep in mind that these men do not even believe in the resurrection, so they have invented this extremely bizarre situation to try to trap Jesus Christ. In the O.T. economy it was important to develop tribal family lines through which the Messiah could come. God punished Onan when he refused to produce children to keep the lineage moving forward and ended up taking his life (Gen. 38:8-9).

(Part #1) - The Christological answer. 22:29-32

Answer #1 - You are deceived. 22:29a

Answer #2 - You do not know the Scriptures. 22:29b

This is a big problem with most religious leaders—they do not know the Bible.

Answer #3 - You do not know the power of God. 22:29c

Answer #4 - You do not know Biblical truth about eternal existences. 22:30

The conjunction “for” (v. 30) suggests that Jesus wants to further point out their ignorance.

(Fact #1) - In the resurrection there are no marriages. 22:30a

(Fact #1) - In the resurrection humans are like angels. 22:30b

The Sadducees did not believe in angels and I am certain this is why Jesus got right in their face about it (Acts 23:8).

Answer #5 - You do not know Biblical truth about life after death. **22:31-32**

Jesus is brilliant here. He basically says to these Sadducees that God is the God of the living, not the dead. How is it that Moses said that He **IS** the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? He did not say He was the God, but He **IS** the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The only answer to this is they still are alive and they will have a resurrection one day or else He is the God of the dead, not the living.

There is a very powerful point to see here. When you find yourself under attack or being questioned, stick with the Scriptures.

When the crowds heard this, **verse 33** says they were astonished at His teaching. That word “astonish” is one that means they were shocked to the point where they were driven away from daring to ask Him anything else (Smith, p. 141).

ENTRAPMENT DISCUSSION #2 – The Pharisaical lawyer tries to trap Christ. **22:34-40**

(Part #1) - The O.T. Law question. **22:34-36**

Now these Pharisaical scribes had developed the Law into 248 affirmative commands and 365 negative commands.

(Part #2) - The Christological answer. **22:37-46**

Response #1 - Jesus answers the Pharisees. **22:37-40**

Jesus does not pick any specific commandment, but He cites two O.T. concepts on which the entire O.T. Law and prophets hinge:

- 1) The greatest commandment is love God with all your heart, soul and mind. Deut. 6:5
- 2) The second greatest is to love your neighbor as yourself. Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18

The brilliance of this is seen in the fact that no one has ever done this.

Response #2 - Jesus questions the Pharisees. **22:41-46**

Now Jesus goes on the offensive against the Pharisees and He asks them whose son will the Messiah be? Immediately **verse 42** says they said the son of David. Jesus said to them how then did David, led by the Spirit of God to write Psalm 110 say that the Messiah was His Lord? The Messiah would come through a lineage of David, but be the divine Lord of David. These Pharisees were looking at the Messiah and they knew it.

Notice **verse 46**—no one was able to answer Him a word. They did not dare open their mouths again because they could not beat Him. He was the Word and He knew the Word and He could use the Word to refute any question they could ever ask. Do not ever think any will beat or fool Jesus Christ the day they get before Him—all will be known as they were really known.