

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, September 10, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 103. “The End of Questions” – Matthew 22:15-46

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Jesus used three parables to demonstrate the failure of the religious leaders in Jerusalem to respond to God’s call and the consequences of their failure for Israel. Now the religious leaders ask 3 questions in an attempt to entangle Jesus in controversy and turn the crowd against Him. He avoids the traps they try to set and then asks a question in return that they cannot answer. Their inability to discredit Him and answer His question sets up His denouncement of them in the following chapters.

- I. Invitation to Treason – vs. 15-22 (Pharisees)
 - A. A Poll Tax
 - 1. Imposed on non-Roman citizens living in Roman Provinces
 - 2. Paid annually by men, women, and children
 - 3. Paid with a Denarius
 - a. Caesar’s image
 - b. The inscription “Divi Filius” – son of god
 - c. Rome allowed Jews to use their own coinage as the Denarius was considered idolatrous
 - B. Revolt against Rome
 - 1. Judas in AD 6
 - 2. The rise of the Zealots
 - 3. War for Independence AD 66-70
 - C. Answers
 - 1. A negative answer pits Jesus against Roman authority
 - 2. A positive answer angers the Jewish crowd
 - 3. Whose coin is it?
 - 4. Jesus’ answer – give back to Caesar what is his, and give to God what is His
 - 5. You can be loyal to God and government – God first, then government
- II. The Resurrection is Ridiculous – vs. 23-33 (Sadducees)
 - A. Sadducees Mock the Resurrection
 - B. Answers
 - 1. Alienate the Sanhedrin
 - 2. Discredit Jesus as a teacher
 - C. You are Mistaken
 - 1. You don’t know the Scriptures
 - a. Life in the resurrection is not the same as life here and now – 1 Cor. 15:39-49
 - b. As the angels
 - 1) No command to be fruitful and multiply
 - 2) Love and knowledge on a new level
 - 2. You don’t understand the power of God – Exodus 3:6 (Pentateuch)
 - a. The God of the Dead?
 - b. The God of the Living!
- III. The Greatest Law – vs. 34-40 (A Lawyer from among the Pharisees)
 - A. Is There a Hierarchy of Law? (heavy, light)
 - B. Love is the Highest Law – Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18

1. Love for God (Commandments 1-4)
2. Love for Others (Commandments 5-10)
- C. "All You Need is Love"? (quote)
- IV. The Son of David – vs. 41-46 (Jesus)
 - A. A Counter Question
 1. Clarify your understanding of the Messiah
 2. Whose Son is the Messiah?
 - B. The Son of David
 - C. The LORD said to My Lord, "Sit at My Right Hand"
 1. The Messiah is more than David's son – Psa. 110:1-7
 2. Who else under God was above David?
 3. The Messiah linked with Melchizedek
 - D. Jesus is the Son of David, and therefore, the Son of God – the Messiah!
 - E. Silence...

Quote – The rules of law find their true role in working out the practical implications of the love for God and neighbor on which they are based. Love becomes the primary hermeneutical principle for interpreting and applying the Law." – RT France

Cross References

1 Corinthians 15:39-49

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Deuteronomy 6:5

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Leviticus 19:18

18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Psalms 110

110 The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. 4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." 5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. 7 He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.