

Chapter Twenty Two*Jesus Passes Every Test***I. Introduction**

- A. In this chapter, Jesus is presented with the hardest questions and toughest theological dilemmas that the Religious could come up with
- B. At the end, Jesus presents a tough question of His own.
- C. The issue moves from Authority in the previous chapter, to **Ability** – is Jesus ABLE to handle the tough questions and answer rightly?

II. Lesson**A. The Parable of the Wedding Supper (22:1-10)**

1. Before all the questions come flying at Jesus, Jesus teaches some more about the coming kingdom of heaven – the Millennium
2. The Particulars of the Parable
 - a. A King – **GOD**
 - b. Made a Marriage for His Son – **Jesus** (who else would it be?)
 - c. The focus is on the Guests – who will be invited?
 - d. The King sent out servants – **Prophets**
 - e. The servants were sent out to invite all the elected guests – Israel. These guests are called, and elect, and chosen, but not FORCED to come
 - f. Bidding is inviting
 - g. The guests exercise **free-will** – they did not want to come
 - h. The King sent out more servants – more prophets
 - 1) Told them to be clearer now – maybe they didn't understand
 - 2) Told them to be more emphatic – that the marriage is now ready, you MUST come
 - i. The Elect Guests made light of the invitation
 - 1) They were only interested in doing their own thing
 - 2) They mistreated the servants
 - 3) Some even killed the servants
3. The Kings Response (22:70-10)
 - a. He sent forth His **ARMIES** (Babylon, and now Rome via Titus)
 - b. He destroyed their city (the country of Israel, as it was that day, but would be worse by 70AD)
 - c. Declared that the first invited guests were NOT worthy
 - d. All because of their **response** to the invitation (Heb 2:3; John 3:36)
 - e. Sent out new servants – this is the **THIRD** time sending out servants
 - 1) Invite absolutely everybody – who ever you meet
 - 2) Go out to the highways – go far and wide
 - 3) Gather together the good and the bad
 - 4) Just as long as my house is filled
4. This is NOT a parable about salvation, but about God trying to fill up the **Millennial** Kingdom with people – take note that both **GOOD** and **BAD** are brought in, referring to those who SHOULD be there, and those who shouldn't

B. Missing a Wedding Garment (22:11-14)

1. Not everyone in the Millennium will be allowed to stay
2. See Matthew 25:31-46
 - a. Sheep - good
 - b. Goats – bad

3. This man has no wedding garment that has been provided to all the guests – this man did not think he needed it
4. The King goes throughout the crowd and discovers this man who is not wearing an identifying garment
5. The teaching here is that some people will survive the Tribulation by not taking the mark of the antichrist, but will not be Believers.
6. They will face the awful tragedy that after escaping the Tribulation, they still head off to a devil's hell!
7. Indeed, many were called/**bidden**, but only a few will meet the requirements for entering the Millennial kingdom! Believing and obeying the Bible!

C. Jesus Answers About Paying Taxes (Mt 22:15-22)

1. The Pharisees set a trap
2. They used the **Herodians** – a zealous political party
 - a. They believed in submission to the Romans
 - b. They wanted freedom to worship pagan gods
 - c. And yet they wanted to remain Jewish
3. They set up a question about paying taxes
 - a. First by praising Jesus – trying to get His ego puffed up
 - b. Then by presenting a very common complaint – whether it was RIGHT and BIBLICALLY lawful to pay **ROMAN** taxes
 - 1) Taxes were already legal under Jewish Law
 - 2) Daniel had never resisted paying taxes
 - 3) Nehemiah never revolted
 - 4) It was however the **Maccabees** who revolted from 164 BC - 63 BC
 - c. Asks Jesus for His “opinion”
 - d. Remember, thousands of people are silently listening and watching every movement
 - e. This was such a divisive, explosive issue, and no one thought an absolute answer could ever be arrived at, so the goal was to marginalise Jesus in any of the “camps” so that at least SOME of the people following Him would give up
 - 1) If Jesus stood against taxes, he would be jailed by the Romans
 - 2) If he stood for paying taxes, Jesus might be stoned, or at least abandoned
 - 3) Which side would He present?
4. Jesus knew their motives. This was not an honest question. They were trying to provoke an argument, not learn an answer!
5. Jesus' Answer (22:19)
 - a. He asks for the Tax Money
 - 1) Different than Jewish money
 - 2) This was money people used for day to day buying and selling
 - 3) Notice that Jesus didn't have any money!
 - b. Somebody hands Him a Penny
 - c. He asks whose **image** is on the Penny?
 - d. They announce “It is Caesar's!”
 - e. Jesus holds it up and with full authority declares...
 - 1) Give unto Caesar the things that belong to Caesar
 - 2) And give unto God the things that belong unto God!
6. That was an amazing answer!
 - a. They had opted to use the Roman money –it was accerted just like the Euro is today

- b. Caesar had the authority to claim as much of the Roman money that he wanted back! HIS image was on the coin!
- c. What Caesar could not claim was our souls, our love, our lives! That belonged to God, and God was asking for it all back! God's image is in us!

D. Jesus Teaches About the Resurrection (Mt 22:23-33)

1. The Sadducees now attempt to trap Jesus' words
2. The Sadducees doctrine included:
 - a. They denied any **resurrection** of the dead (Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18-27; Acts 23:8).
 - b. They denied any **afterlife**, holding that the soul perished at death, and therefore denying any penalty or reward after the earthly life.
 - c. They denied the existence of a **spiritual** world, i.e., angels and demons (Acts 23:8).
3. They did hold to the Pentatuch as being authoritative, so they USED the Law in debates
4. Presented their theological problem with the Resurrection
 - a. The Law required the family of a husband taking responsibility for the actions and dependants of that man
 - b. That is a good thing!
 - c. You marry into a **FAMILY**
 - d. The government was not responsible for disasters in a family – the families of that family is responsible, especially the man's family
 - e. The unmarried brothers of a deceased brother took responsibility for the widowed woman and her children – otherwise she would be destitute
 - f. The dilemma presented involved one woman, ultimately having seven lawful husbands
 - g. Whose wife shall she be in the resurrection? The "Resurrection" is referring to the **kingdom of heaven**
5. Jesus' Answer
 - a. His answer starts with a rebuke!
 - 1) All theological problems usually begin with problems with **logic** instead of problems in Scripture
 - 2) They only knew how to USE the Scriptures, but did not KNOW them
 - 3) And they didn't believe in the power of God!
 - 4) They were **Deists** - They believed in God, but not much else
 - b. He Explains the Resurrection
 - 1) In the resurrection, people have new bodies – just not interested in procreating
 - 2) They don't marry and are not given in marriage
 - 3) They are however **AS** the angels (Rev 22:9; Dan 12:4). They are NOT angels, but are evidently LIKE them
 - a) **Male.**
 - b) **Without wings.**
 - c) **Very powerful.**
 - d) **They serve the Lord.**
 - c. Jesus **PROVES** the Resurrection – from the LAW
 - 1) Went to the Saducees favourite Scripture – Exodus 3:6
 - 2) Proves the immortality of the soul
 - 3) God sais that "I AM the God of Abraham..."
 - 4) He is not the God of dead people
 - 5) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been dead for over 500 years by Exodus 3
 - d. All this just blew everyone away with the truth of Scripture!

E. Jesus Teaches What is the Greatest Commandment (Mt 22:34-40)

1. The Pharisees now take their turn trying to trip up Jesus
2. They questioned about what is the greatest commandment
3. That was THEIR pet debate that they knew never could be settled!
4. There were **613** laws in the entire Old Testament – so WHICH ONE was greatest?
5. Jesus instantly responds:
 - a. Deut 6:5 – **Love God**
 - 1) With all the heart
 - 2) Soul
 - 3) Mind
 - b. Lev 19:19 – **Love your neighbour as yourself**
 - c. Everything in Scripture hangs on those two commandments!
 - 1) The first four commandments are Godward
 - 2) The last 6 are manward

F. **Jesus Proves His Deity from Scripture** (Mt 22:41-46)

1. Now it is Jesus' turn to put out a question
2. And it is about HIMSELF – the Messiah
3. Whose **SON** is the Messiah? (See Prov 30:4)
4. Everyone answers, “David’s son!”
5. Jesus then asks a very HARD question
 - a. Then WHY does David, the Patriarch of his family line call his son, Lord?
 - b. Psalm 110:1 has the quote exactly
 - c. Jesus is asking, “Who could be above David?”
 - d. Even Solomon was under David’s authority and rule, so how could a descendent of David be greater than David?
6. The obvious answer is because the Messiah is MORE than just a man – He has to be **JEHOVAH!**