

JESUS AND THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 22:15-46

12/11/11

Many today have questions about the Bible.

Is it reliable?

Has it been accurately preserved through the centuries?

How is it to be interpreted?

Is it to be taken literally?

In our passage this morning we will see how Jesus viewed the Bible.

If you are trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your view of the Bible should be no less than His.

In our passage this morning we will see how Jesus uses the Bible to answer various groups that oppose Him.

1. **The Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus over a question of taxes. 22:15-22**

Hatred of Jesus bound these two very diverse groups together with a kind of diabolical superglue.

The Pharisees considered King Herod to be an evil usurper of the throne of David.

The Herodians on the other hand supported both Herod and the Roman rule of their country.

The Pharisees were political conservatives.

The Herodians were political liberals

Yet they were cemented together by their mutual hatred of Jesus.

The Pharisees hated Jesus because He was disrupting their religious agenda.

The Herodians hated Him because He threatened their political arrangements.

15-16 Their mutual hatred of Jesus got them to join together in an attempt *trap Jesus*.

They hoped that Jesus would say something which they could use to bring him before the Romans for execution.

17 Their question

No matter how Jesus answered, it would put Him in trouble with either the Jews or the Romans.

If he answered “No” to their question, the Herodians would charge him with treason against Rome.

If he said “Yes”, the Pharisees would accuse him of disloyalty to the Jewish nation, and he would lose the support of the crowds.

18-21 Christ’s Answer

Their coins were minted by the Roman government and Caesar’s image was stamped on the coins.

They were governed by Rome and should obey the government whether they agree with it or not.

(Unless the government tells them to disobey God)

But then Jesus draws a comparison.

Genesis 1:26-27 says that we are made in the image of God.

We have God’s image stamped on us.

We belong to Him.

Jesus says that we are to give unto God the things that are God’s.

Jesus is not just talking about paying tithes to God.

He is also talking about giving God our lives.

He is calling us to a profound commitment to God.

Jesus based His answer on the Genesis account of creation.

2. The Sadducees try to trap Jesus over the question of life after death. 22:23-33

23 The Sadducees were theological liberals.

They rejected all but the first five books of the Old Testament

And those they interpreted them rather loosely

They didn't believe in angels, demons, the existence of the soul, life after death, the resurrection, or a final judgment.

24-28 The Sadducees asked Jesus a question about the resurrection (which they didn't even believe in)

Their question involves the Old Testament law of Levirate marriage which taught that if a man died childless, his brother was marry his widow to raise up an heir. cf Deuteronomy 25:5-10, Ruth 4

This served several purposes in that culture.

It produced an heir if a man died without having children.

It produced a child to care for the widow in her old age.

It kept the inheritance within the family.

29-32 Jesus' Answer

29a They did not understand the scriptures.

Many OT passages taught about a resurrection

29b They didn't understand the power of God.

God is able to resurrect the dead even if they can't figure out how.

30 There is no state of marriage in the resurrection

Note that the question wasn't about whether she could get married once she got to heaven

It was about which of her earthly marriages would last into eternity.

Jesus' answered "none of them".

The institution of marriage does not carry over into heaven.

There is no eternal marriage.

The next life is different from this one.

The good news is that we will know and love each other even more in heaven. (cf 8:11; Luke 16:19-31)

31-32 The Bible does teach a resurrection.

Jesus could have used any of number of OT passages that clearly teach that there is a life after death. (Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 26:19; Job 19:25-26)

But the Sadducees only accepted the first five books of the OT.

So Jesus went to an unusual passage in a book of the Bible which they did accept.

In Exodus 3:6 God tells Moses that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had all died hundreds of years before the time of Moses.

Yet God said to Moses, "I **am** the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, not "I **was** their God.

Jesus bases His argument for life after death on the tense of the word used. (present not past tense)

The implication is that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive and enjoying an everlasting relationship with God

Jesus saw the Bible as accurate and reliable down to the very tense of the word used.

Jesus had a confidence that God's word had been recorded accurately and preserved from the time of Moses down to that very time that He was speaking

For almost 1500 years

Matthew 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

3. A Pharisee tests Jesus with a question about which is the great commandment of the law. 22:34-40

37-38 Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means to love Him with all that we are.

To put Him first in our lives

To be completely devoted to Him

What Are The Signs That We Love God?

1. We keep His commands. John 14:15, 21
2. We put Him ahead of the things of this world.
1 John 2:15-16
3. We love and care about the needs of others. 1 John 3:17; 4:20

1 John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Loving God and others is not natural to us.

The Holy Spirit has to make a radical change in our hearts.

So far, the religious leaders have been putting Jesus to the test.

In verses 41-45 He puts them to the test.

4. **Jesus asks the Pharisees how David's son could also be his Lord. 22:41-46**

The Old Testament teaches that the Messiah would be a royal descendant of David (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12–14; Ps. 89:4; Isa. 11:1, 10; Jer. 23:5).

“Son of David” was the most common messianic title used in Jesus' day.

Jesus quotes from Psalm 110:1

The Pharisees would have recognized this psalm as a divinely inspired messianic prophecy

Jesus asks the question,

Why does David call his future offspring, “*Lord*?”

How can the Christ (Messiah) be both David's son and his *Lord*?

The Bible teaches that the young are to honor their elders, not the other way around.

David would not normally address one of his descendants as “*Lord*”

There must be something special about this descendant.

Jesus is pointing out that the Christ must be God.

In claiming to be the Christ, Jesus is claiming to be God.

Jesus saw the Bible as accurate and reliable down to the word used.

5. Truths That Matter

a. Jesus knew His Bible and had a high view of its authority over the issues of life.

How well do you know the Bible?

Is it the ultimate authority in your life?

b. Jesus had a high view of the reliability of the Bible.

- Jesus believed that the scriptures were inspired by God. v. 31
- Jesus believed that the OT had been accurately preserved by God.
- Jesus believed that the Bible was to be understood literally.

The creation account of Adam and Eve

Cain and Abel (Mt 23:35) and Noah’s flood (Mt. 24:37-38)

- Jesus believed that the very words, tenses, and letters were accurate and important.

If we say that we believe that Jesus is Lord and place our eternal hope upon what He taught, how can we take a lower view of scripture than Jesus did?

c. Jesus is our example in how to study the Bible.

With confidence and with care

Words, tenses, and contexts are important.

Don't be like the Sadducees.

Don't let your personal views about life and death determine how you interpreted the Bible.

d. Jesus is God. v. 45 cf John 8:23-24

e. There will be a resurrection day.

Many people are gambling with their lives.

They are betting everything on their belief that there is no life after death.

No resurrection, No judgment

Jesus and the Bible clearly teach otherwise.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies

Where will you be?

Matthew 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

How can you avoid the judgment?

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.