



Lesson 54 - Controversy

Based on Matthew 22:15-46; Mark 12:13-40; Luke 20:20-47

- 1) What did Jesus do in the last week before Calvary?

Mark 11:15-16 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and _____ the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the _____.

Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest. His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple. The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire.

- 2) How did the Pharisees feel about Jesus after His parable of the Lord of the Vineyard?

Luke 20:19-20 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to _____ on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them. And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might _____ him unto the power and authority of the governor.

They did not send the old Pharisees whom Jesus had often met, but young men, who were ardent and zealous, and whom, they thought, Christ did not know. These were accompanied by certain of the Herodians, who were to hear Christ's words, that they might testify against Him at His trial. The Pharisees and Herodians had been bitter enemies, but they were now one in enmity to Christ.

- 3) What insincere statement did they make in order to trip up Jesus?

Luke 20:21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest _____, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God _____:

Had they been sincere, it would have been a wonderful admission. But they were spoken to deceive; nevertheless, their testimony was true. The Pharisees did know that Christ said and taught rightly, and by their own testimony will they be judged.

- 4) What question did they pose to Jesus?

Matthew 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto _____, or not?

- 5) Was Jesus taken in by their flattery?

Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their _____, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

He said this; thus, giving them a sign they had not asked, by showing that He read their hidden purpose.

- 6) What was His answer to the tribute question?

Matthew 22:19-21 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this _____ and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto _____ the things that are God's.



The spies had expected Jesus to answer their question directly, in one way or the other. If He should say, it is unlawful to give tribute to Caesar, He would be reported to the Roman authorities and arrested for inciting rebellion. But in case He should pronounce it lawful to pay the tribute, they designed to accuse Him to the people as opposing the law of God. Now they felt themselves baffled and defeated. Their plans were disarranged. The summary manner in which their question had been settled left them nothing further to say.

7) What Words of Wisdom defeated them?

Mark 12:17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to _____ the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they _____ at him.

Had they faithfully fulfilled their obligations to God, they would not have become a broken nation, subject to a foreign power. No Roman ensign would have waved over Jerusalem, no Roman sentinel would have stood at her gates, no Roman governor would have ruled within her walls. The Jewish nation was then paying the penalty of its apostasy from God.

8) How did they respond?

Matthew 22:22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and _____ him, and went their way.

9) Who came later that day to catch Jesus in their trap?

Matthew 22:23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no _____, and asked him,...

The Sadducees and the Pharisees stood in bitter opposition to each other. The Pharisees were rigid adherents to tradition. They were exact in outward ceremonies, diligent in washings, fastings, and long prayers, and ostentatious in almsgiving. But Christ declared that they made void the law of God by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. As a class they were bigoted and hypocritical; yet among them were persons of genuine piety, who accepted Christ's teachings and became His disciples. The Sadducees rejected the traditions of the Pharisees. They professed to believe the greater portion of the Scriptures, and to regard them as the rule of action; but practically they were skeptics and materialists.

The Sadducees denied the existence of angels, the resurrection of the dead, and the doctrine of a future life, with its rewards and punishments. On all these points they differed with the Pharisees. Between the two parties the resurrection was especially a subject of controversy. The Pharisees had been firm believers in the resurrection, but in these discussions their views in regard to the future state became confused. Death became to them an inexplicable mystery.

In the Sadducees ranks were included most of the priests, and from among them the high priest was usually chosen. This was, however, with the express stipulation that their skeptical opinions should not be made prominent. On account of the numbers and popularity of the Pharisees, it was necessary for the Sadducees to concede outwardly to their doctrines when holding any priestly office; but the very fact that they were eligible to such office gave influence to their errors.



10) What question did they pose to Jesus?

Matthew 22:24-28 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man _____, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his _____: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

11) What cutting remark did Jesus say before answering them?

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the _____, nor the _____ of God.

12) What was the true answer to their question?

Matthew 22:30-32 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the _____ of _____ in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the _____, but of the _____.

By His words and His works, Christ testified to a divine power that produces supernatural results, to a future life beyond the present, to God as a Father of the children of men, ever watchful of their true interests.

The Sadducees had flattered themselves that they of all men adhered most strictly to the Scriptures. But Jesus showed that they had not known their true meaning. That knowledge must be brought home to the heart by the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

13) What did one of the Scribes ask Jesus later?

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first _____ of all?

14) What was Jesus' reply?

Mark 12:29-31 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the _____ thy _____ with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as _____. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.

15) Did Jesus bring conviction to the questioner?

Mark 12:32-33 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to _____ him with all the _____, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and _____.



16) What did Jesus see in this man?

Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art _____ from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

The scribe was near to the kingdom of God, in that he recognized deeds of righteousness as more acceptable to God than burnt offerings and sacrifices. But he needed to recognize the divine character of Christ, and through faith in Him receive power to do the works of righteousness. The ritual service was of no value, unless connected with Christ by living faith. Even the moral law fails of its purpose, unless it is understood in its relation to the Saviour. Christ had repeatedly shown that His Father's law contained something deeper than mere authoritative commands. In the law is embodied the same principle that is revealed in the gospel. The law points out man's duty and shows him his guilt. To Christ he must look for pardon and for power to do what the law enjoins.

17) The Pharisees pressed close as Jesus answered the scribe, what did Jesus ask them?

Matthew 22:41-42 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The _____ of _____.

18) What did the crowds call Jesus in Matthew's Gospel?

Matthew 12:22-23 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he _____ him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were _____, and said, Is not this the son of David?

19) What did the Canaanite woman call Jesus?

Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have _____ on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

20) How did Jesus reply to the Pharisees' "Son of David" reply?

Matthew 22:43-45 He saith unto them, How then doth David in _____ call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy _____? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

21) How did their interaction with Jesus end that day?

Matthew 22:46 And no man was able to answer him a _____, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

22) What did Jesus tell his Disciples (and us)?

Luke 20:45-47 Then in the audience of all the people he said unto his disciples, Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love _____ in the markets, and the _____ seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make _____: the same shall receive greater damnation.

23) What Words of encouragement should we never forget?

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do _____, and to love mercy, and to walk _____ with thy God?

Can you see that you can't fool God?

Would you like to be a citizen of the New Kingdom?

When is the time to listen to God?