

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 22:

vs. 1-14:

Jesus, through the parable of the wedding banquet, demonstrated again, how the Israelites, though called by God to enjoy special privileges, rejected them. Time and again they had killed God's prophets who came to tell them the message of the Lord. Now, Jesus informs them, God will send the message to ones who are "undeserving" (in the Jews eyes at least), and that many of them would accept God's invitation. Even among this group however, there would be some who also would reject the privilege and be cast out.

vs. 15-22:

The Pharisees and Herodians (Herodians were people who supported the Roman government) approached Jesus and asked for His opinion concerning the paying of taxes. They felt that if He supported taxes, many of His followers would be dismayed, for they hated the Romas; and if He rejected the idea of paying taxes, they would have cause to hand Him over to the Roman authorities. Either way, they would be rid of Him.

Jesus replied, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." In so answering, no one could dispute His answer and they left, amazed at His wisdom.

vs. 23-33:

The Sadducees (another segment of the religious leaders; these did not believe in the resurrection) presented Jesus with a case where one woman, following Jewish custom and law, had ended up married through the years to 7 men. They asked Jesus, to whom she would be married, if there was a resurrection. Jesus replied that there are no bonds of marriage in heaven, everyone will exist to dwell with their Creator and to praise Him. Concerning the existence of the resurrection, Jesus reminded them that in their Scriptures, whenever it referred to God being the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that it always did so in reference to their being alive. Not: God WAS the God of Abraham, but God IS the God of Abraham.

Once again, the people were amazed at His teaching.

vs. 34-40:

Now the Pharisees (who believe in the resurrection) and the Sadducees (who don't believe in the resurrection) get together and lay aside their differences so that they can get rid of Jesus. One asks Jesus concerning the greatest commandment. Jesus replies (quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18) that the greatest 2 commandments are to love God completely, and to love mankind as you love yourself.

Jesus further explained, how all the Law and the Prophets are based on these 2 commandments.

vs. 41-46:

Jesus now takes the offensive and confronts the Pharisees, asking them who the Messiah was. They had been taught that He would be the son of David, but Jesus (by quoting Psalm 110:1) confounds them, for they didn't understand how a descendant of David could be greater than David, himself. Therefore, they decided to drop the matter and not bother Jesus anymore.

Jesus, the Christ, was a descendant of David, however; and He was greater for He was the Son of God and had the power of God, and demonstrated it through the miracles that He did.

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STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 22:

1. What did a king prepare for his son?
2. How did the guests respond to the servants who had been sent?
3. Who were the ones who were finally invited?
4. What did the Pharisees plan to do?
5. What question did the Pharisees ask of Jesus?
6. What was Jesus' answer to their question?
7. What question did the Sadducees ask Jesus, in vs 28?
8. Who is God, the God of?
9. What are the 2 greatest commandments?
10. What do all the Law and Prophets hang on?
11. What did David say about his Lord, in vs. 44?
12. What did no one dare to do, after they couldn't answer Jesus?

BONUS:

1. What is the meaning of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet?
2. How do you feel about Jesus' remarks concerning marriage and the resurrection?
3. How can all the Law and Prophets hang on the 2 commandments?