Preparing for Life's Tough Questions
Read Matthew 22:34-46

Our Scripture describes one of the frequent encounters Jesus faced with religious and secular experts who had been formally trained in the Law of Moses. He apparently read and studied the *Old Testament* on his own, yet Jesus regularly embarrassed those arrogant law specialists.

In the "Question and Answer" sessions I've held, my ability to anticipate what people might ask has been perfect--100 per cent zilch. A few years ago, I met with a group of people from another church who wanted to query me about a book I wrote. I didn't know most of those folks and was totally clueless as to the questions they might ask. I reviewed areas where I might be vulnerable. I also fervently prayed for wisdom.

Still, I shouldn't have worried about those good people who wanted to know about my book's contents They were refreshingly honest seekers eager to hear new insights about God's word. No one attempted to trick me with "hard" questions like the ones the Pharisees used in their attempts to ensnare Jesus.

Christian teachers need to pray for the gift of discernment, the God-given ability to know when questioners are genuine seekers or hard-hearted, self-righteous, specialists in entrapment. I certainly should pray that on all occasions, I shall follow Solomon's advice:

"Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent."

(Proverbs 17:28 ESV)

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