

“How Jesus Dealt with Religious Experts”

Matthew 22:34-46

I met with a group of people from another church who wanted to query me about my latest book. I didn't know most of them. Beforehand, no one gave any hint about the questions they might ask. I reviewed areas where I thought I might be vulnerable, and I prayed for wisdom. During numerous “Question and Answer” sessions I've held, my ability to guess what people might ask has been perfect; my score is zilch.

My worries about this group were unfounded. Those good people were seekers, refreshingly honest, and eager to hear new insights about God's word. No one attempted to trick me with “hard” questions similar to the ones the Pharisees used in their attempts to ensnare Jesus in *Matthew 22*.

Christian teachers should always 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. We need also to pray that when we encounter the so-called experts, we can 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 RSV*).

Bob Blair
PO Box 304
Marcus, IA 51035

www.robertblairbooks.com

