

JESUS DEALS WITH THREE GROUPS - Mt. 22

¹⁵ Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

¹⁶ And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

¹⁷ Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

¹⁸ But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

¹⁹ Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

²⁰ And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

²¹ They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

²² When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

THE HERODIANS WERE A POLITICAL PARTY IN JESUS' TIME. THEY BELIEVED THAT POLITICS COULD SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. WHEN THEY ASKED JESUS ABOUT PAYING TAXES HE ASKED THEM WHOSE PICTURE WAS ON THE COINS. THEY ANSWERED THAT IT WAS CAESAR'S PICTURE. SO JESUS TOLD THEM THAT IT MUST THEN BELONG TO CAESAR. JESUS DEALT WITH THEM QUICKLY.

²³ The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

²⁴ Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

²⁵ 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 brother:

²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

²⁷ And last of all the woman died also.

²⁸ Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

³¹ But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

³² I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

³³ And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.

THE SADDUCEES WERE THE LEFT WING ELEMENT IN JESUS' DAY. THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IN A RESURRECTION. YET THEY MADE UP A RIDICULOUS STORY ABOUT A WOMAN WHO MARRIED SEVEN BROTHERS IN A ROW WITH EACH OF THEM DYING. THEY ASK JESUS WHOSE WIFE SHE WILL BE IN THE RESURRECTION. JESUS TELLS THEM THAT THERE IS NO MARRYING IN THE RESURRECTION AND THAT THEY KNOW NEITHER THE SCRIPTURES OR THE POWER OF GOD.

³⁴ But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

³⁵ Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,
⁴² Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David.
⁴³ He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,
⁴⁴ The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? Ps 110:1
⁴⁵ If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?
⁴⁶ And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

THE PHARISEES WERE THE RIGHT WING ELEMENT IN JESUS' DAY. THEY ASK JESUS WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THE LAW. JESUS ANSWERS CORRECTLY AND THEY APPROVE. AS THEY WALK AWAY JESUS ASKS THEM A QUESTION ABOUT THE MESSIAH. WHOSE SON IS HE? THEY ANSWER DAVID'S SON. THEN JESUS ASKS THEM HOW DAVID (PSALM 110.1 - 1,000 BC) COULD CALL THE MESSIAH "LORD." THE PHARISEES CANNOT ANSWER JESUS. THEY GO AWAY AND DO NOT COME BACK WITH ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

WHAT WAS KING DAVID'S SECRET. SIMPLY THAT DAVID HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THE SON BEFORE ANYONE ELSE KNEW THAT THERE WAS SUCH A BEING.

STRICT DOCTRINAL LEGALISTS AVOID A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. THEY ARE TERRIFIED ABOUT AN ACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD. THEY CLING ONLY TO THEIR PRECIOUS DOCTRINES. CORRECT DOCTRINES ARE GOOD, BUT THEY CANNOT REPLACE RELATIONSHIP.

THE RIGHT WING IS THE WORST OF THE THREE GROUPS BY FAR, ESPECIALLY IF THEY HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.