

Matthew 22:15-46 –9 February 2020

“Believest thou this?”

Introduction

Christ has come into Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry and life.

This is the culmination of His dedication to save our souls as the Lamb of God, our substitutionary sacrifice.

He’s being examined (as the Lamb) for 4 days (as commanded in the Law of the Passover Lamb)

Matt 21:14 they challenged Him “by what authority do You do these things?”

After answering them, He gave 3 parables showing how we can tell that they’re bound to a dead religion

#1-They’re not converted, #2-They’re cruel & selfish, #3-They don’t value the things of God

Sum it up...They don’t believe God way of salvation!

Tonight, we see 4 things He points them to believe

#1 – Do you believe that all people are created valuably equal? (Chap 22:15-22)

Read Vs 15-17a

1. They're flattering attempting to deceive Him
2. “*regard not the person of man*” – unbiased
 - a. “We know You're smart & unbiased like us”
 - b. Difference between gossip and flattery
 - i. Gossip – behind back, not to face
 - ii. Flattery – to face, not behind back
 - c. Treating all people equal also involves treating one individual the same all the time

Read Vs 17

1. B/c we have responsibilities to many different parties, they're trying to set one against the other.
2. Whom should we value?
 - a. Should we value Caesar and the Romans?
 - b. Should we value just our people's needs?

Read Vs 18-21

1. Hypocrites – two-faced, wearing a mask
 - a. They are difference around different people
 - i. Tell Romans one thing, tell Jews opposite.
 - b. The whole context is *shouldn't one group be valued more than the other?*
2. His answer isn't just vs 21b
 - a. He first speaks of who's image is on it.
 - b. If it was, He wouldn't be helping them to understand, what “*the things of God*” are.
3. What's the obvious question to ask after vs 21?
 - a. What things belong to God?
 - i. Jesus would say, *whose image is on you?*”
4. Jesus shows valuable equality based on creation.
 - a. Give carnal to the carnal, give spiritual to God

Read Vs 22

1. Proof they're not believers
 - a. Believers examine & press in to next level questions, and unbelievers walk away

#2 – Do you believe that the Bible declares the miraculous? (Chap 22:23-33)

Read Vs 23-28

1. 1st question, what was she feeding these guys!
2. Sadducees were of the high priest's family
 - a. They were wealthy aristocrats
 - b. They believed only in material, not spirit.
 - c. No resurrection so they were “*sad you see*”
3. They here describe Levirate marriage.
 - a. Marrying to continue the family name.
 - b. Want to show no resurrection by using Law

Read Vs 29-33

1. Vs 30 – the specific answer
 - a. In the resurrection, we're not married
 - b. Turn to I Cor 15:35-44
 - c. Our spiritual life is so much better than being connected to just one.
 - d. Special connect to one on earth, is to picture our oneness with Christ to come.

2. Vs 31-32 – more of the specific answer
 - a. God has already declared life after death in the OT.
 - b. Vs 32 is quoted from God calling Moses to service at the burning bush.
 - c. Jesus makes His entire argument here based on the fact that we can believe the whole Bible right down to the very tense of the verbs!
3. Vs 29 – Jesus gives the heart of their problem
 - a. The Bible is written beyond earthly means.
 - b. The Bible declares God does more than just routine things.
 - i. When?
 1. Before the world began, God used the miraculous!
 2. In the next life, God will use the miraculous!
 3. In this life, God uses the miraculous!
 - c. God has the ability to interrupt the natural to bring about a supernatural change!

#3 – Do you believe that loving actions triumph over legal actions? (Chap 22:34-40)

Read Vs 34-36

1. He was a lawyer or a scribe.
 - a. He knew the Bible well, he was book-smart
 - b. He was paid well to memorize & look up
2. He's thinking, "what do we have 'to do'".

Read Vs 37-40

1. In Vs 37-38 He gives the answer
 - a. Love God with everything in you
 - b. Love God above everything else
2. In Vs 39 He adds a 2nd similar but secondary
 - a. Secondary b/c without a relationship w/ God, we haven't the power to love others.
 - b. Added b/c we shouldn't be so heavenly minded that we're no earthly good.
 - c. It irrational and selfish to know the love of God, having everlasting life and not convince someone else to come with you!

3. In Vs 40 He declares loves supremacy
 - a. Read Matt 7:12 – Quid pro quo of love
 - b. Turn to I Tim 1:5-11
 - i. Law given to shine light on sin, showing our need of a savior other than ourselves
 - ii. Vs 5 – the end of the law is love
 - c. I've stopped asking if the thing I'm about to do is right or wrong and I've started asking myself, "Will this please my Father?"
 - i. I'm not in a legal relationship with God
 - ii. I know He loves Me & wants the best for me.

#4 – Do you believe that God has become a man? (Chap 22:41-46)

Read Vs 41-42

1. Jesus asks of the most commonly known aspect of David's relationship to the Messiah
2. Messiah promised to Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Judah, then finally to David (II Sam 7)

Read Vs 43-46

1. Jesus quotes Psm 110:1 in which David speaks of the Messiah, not as his son, but as his Lord.
2. Jesus' question in vs 45 is, how can the Messiah be David's son but also his Lord?
3. Pharisees were expecting David's son, the Messiah, to be a powerful man to rule.
 - a. Oh He is.
 - b. Pharisees were not expecting David's Son to also be the Son of God from everlasting!
4. David's son is the perfect God-man
5. Who is this King of glory, what is His name?
And what is His Son's name, tell me if you can?

Conclusion

We've seen 4 fundamentals that the religious leaders didn't believe. Their unbelief has kept them in darkness.

It's a challenge to us, if we believe.

In fact these 4 beliefs are critical to coming into a saving knowledge of Christ for your eternal destiny

1. **Do you believe that all people are created valuably equal?**
 - a. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.
 - b. Less bad does not equal good
 - c. We all inherit eternal life from Christ
2. **Do you believe that the Bible declares the miraculous?**
 - a. Without God's power, we would be stuck in the realm of science and nature.
 - b. Jesus Christ has proven He has power over nature and even death itself!
 - c. We need His power to go beyond this life.

3. **Do you believe that loving actions triumph over legal actions?**
 - a. Legal action attempt to say, “I can do it”
 - b. Loving actions say, “I need help and Jesus loves me enough to save me.”
4. **Do you believe that God has become a man?**
 - a. Many believe the Jesus was a great teacher
 - b. Do you believe that He’s God Himself, who has paid the price for your sins as a man?

Jesus is constantly challenging us, not in actions but in beliefs.

Read John 11:25-26