

CHRIST ANSWERS THE INSINCERE QUESTIONERS

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : Matthew 22:15-33, 41-46

LESSON 219 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Render therefore to all their dues" (Romans 13:7).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

Matthew 22:15-33

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.

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.

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

[NOTES:](#)

Questioning Jesus

The chief priests and elders of the people asked Jesus by what authority He taught as He did in the Temple ([Matthew 21:23](#)

²³ And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?). The Pharisees, who had heard Jesus' parables, were condemned and knew that He was speaking of them. The Pharisees made a plan by which they hoped to "catch" Jesus in His words ([Mark 12:13](#) ¹³ And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in *his* words). Their plan was to make *Jesus* speak in such a way that it would bring an offense against the Romans, that "they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor" (Luke 20:20).

The Pharisees, themselves, did not go to Jesus. They sent some of their disciples with another group called Herodians, who, no doubt, were subject to Herod and his family. They hoped, by flattery, to catch Jesus off His guard. They called Him "Master," as if they were His followers.

A Faithful Teacher

The people said, "We know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth." The words they spoke were true, whether they knew it or not. Jesus was true, and taught the truth. The name of "Faithful and True" has been given to Him ([Revelation 19:11](#) ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war). Jesus said of Himself, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Jesus was a faithful teacher. Jesus did not hesitate to reprove man of sin, even though that man was rich, influential, or learned. Christ's love and compassion for all people were so great that He was partial to no one. His teachings were for all people. Christ was faithful to point out the sin in the lives of all classes of people, and to take the sin from the lives of those who repented.

These people who went to Jesus pretended to be inquiring about the right way, but they really were not wanting Christ's opinion. They were trying to entangle Him, that His words might be deliberately misunderstood and misinterpreted.

Giving Tribute

The question these men asked Jesus was one which might have entrapped an ordinary person. They asked Jesus if He thought it was "lawful to give tribute unto Caesar." They hoped that Jesus' answer would get Him into trouble. If Jesus said that they should pay tribute, the disciples of the Pharisees would stir the people against Him. If, on the other hand, Jesus said that they should not pay tribute, then the Herodians would tell Herod. They thought they had Jesus trapped. They thought that whatever He said would cause Him to be either an offender against the government or an offender against the people. They asked, "Shall we give, or shall we not give?" (Mark 12:15).

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.

Matthew 22:41-46

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?

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*.

Christ's Wisdom

Jesus knew their wickedness, their hypocrisy (**Mark 12:15** ¹⁵ Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see *it*.), and their craftiness (**Luke 20:23** ²³ But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?). Jesus knew that their plan was for no good to Him or to themselves. They were not seeking the truth. Their scheme was cleverly planned, and given a good appearance, but it came to nought, because these men were dealing with the Son of God, whose wisdom is greater than all others. These men and others, too, have learned that one cannot deceive the Lord God nor can one hide from Him the real motive that *is* in the heart. "The LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). "Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men" (Acts 1:24). "The word of God is quick, and powerful . . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). "Thus saith the LORD ... I know the things that come into your mind" (Ezekiel 11:5).

A Coin

No doubt the Herodians and the disciples of the Pharisees were very much surprised at Jesus' answer. He asked to be shown a tribute coin. Perhaps Jesus had none; He became poor for our sakes that we might have the true riches of Heaven (**2 Corinthians 8:9** ⁹ For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.) Jesus was more interested in spiritual things than in things of a temporal or physical nature.

A penny, the tax money, was brought to Jesus. He asked about the writing and the picture that were stamped on the money. It is said that there was a rule among the Jewish people that he whose coin was used was the ruler of that country; much in the same manner as those who have crowned Christ the King of their life, have the likeness of Christ in their heart. We have learned that Christ is King of kings and that some day He will rule over all. Now Christ rules and reigns in the hearts of His people, those who have Christ's likeness stamped upon their hearts and lives.

No Offense

Upon the penny were stamped the image and words of Caesar. Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." That is all Jesus said. There was no offense given to the government or to the people. Jesus' answer was plain and true. There was no mistaking the meaning. Instead of entangling Jesus, they were reprov'd; for, without a doubt, all were guilty of withholding from God.

In Jesus' few words He showed us that Christians are good citizens. They perform their duty to their country. Nevertheless, they also perform their duty to God, for "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Many people are very careful about the temporal things of this life, but they overlook spiritual things. Let us not fail to heed the last part of Jesus' statement, too, which is that we should render "unto God the things that are God's." Our heart and life belong to God. Are we giving them to Him? The word "render" means to give back or return. Are we returning to God the love that He has shown us? Jesus has given much for us. What are we giving to Him?

The Herodians and the disciples of the Pharisees gained nothing by opposing Christ. They marveled at His answer. They held their peace and left Him, defeated by Him, but refusing to

heed His words of life. They still did not render to God the honor that was due to Him.

In writing to the Romans, Paul said: "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Romans 13:7).

Another Question

The same day, another group of people came to question Jesus. This time they were the Sadducees, who deny that there is a resurrection. They addressed Jesus as "Master," just as the others did. They quoted the Law of Moses (**Deuteronomy 25:5** ⁵ *If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her*). Then they put to Jesus an example to try to prove their point concerning the resurrection. They thought that Jesus could give no answer, thus proving that they were right in denying the resurrection. The example they gave was very unusual: There were seven brothers, all of whom had died; and the six of them had been obedient to the Law by each marrying his brother's widow. The Sadducees wanted to know whose wife this woman would be in the resurrection, for she had been the wife of the seven brothers on earth.

Ignorance of the Scriptures

Jesus answered their foolish question by saying that they made their mistake because they were ignorant of what the Scriptures say about life after death, and because they knew not the power of God. Jesus informed them that in the resurrection there is no marriage.

Jesus quieted the Sadducees in such a way that they dared not ask Him more questions. He gave them their answer from the Book of Moses which they had already mentioned, and proved to them that there is a resurrection, for He said: "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

The Resurrection

The Sadducees made their mistake in not believing all the Scriptures. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, teaches about the resurrection. Job expressed his belief in the resurrection (**Job 19:25-27** ²⁵ *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ²⁶ And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*). The Psalmist David mentions the resurrection (**Psalms 71:20** ²⁰ *Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth*). Daniel prophesied concerning the resurrection (**Daniel 12:2** ² *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*). (Read Lesson 120 which tells more about the resurrection.)

The Whole Bible

Today, people are led into error because they do not believe and teach all the Scriptures. We must believe the whole Bible, from the first verse of Genesis, the first Book, to the last verse of Revelation, the last Book — if we are to go to Heaven.

Jesus answered with the Word of God the insincere questioners who had sought to trap Him. He did not ignore

those who inquired of Him. Today, we can find in the Bible the answer to every honest question regarding spiritual things which will help one to prepare and to keep ready for the Lord's coming.

A Question from Jesus

Of the Pharisees who had gathered, Jesus asked a question, not to ensnare them but to instruct them. His question was, "What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?" Their answer was, "The Son of David." In other words, they thought that Christ was a man. Christ should have meant more to them than that. To Christians, Christ is the Son of God, their Savior and their Redeemer. Jesus asked them a question which every one of us must answer. What do you think of Christ? Is He your Savior and Redeemer?

When the Pharisees answered that they thought Christ was the Son of David, Jesus then asked how could David call Him "Lord" if He were David's son. That puzzled them, and it appeared to them to be difficult of explanation. Only the truth could be the answer to such a question. It is true that Jesus was human; and, as the son of man, He was the son of David. Jesus was also divine, the Son of God, whom David called "my Lord" (Psalm 110:1). (Lessons 113 and 130 teach further the subject of Jesus, the Son of God.)

The Pharisees had no more to say to Jesus. No one could ask Him any more questions. No one succeeded in his effort to entangle Christ in His talk. Many marveled at Jesus' wisdom, yet went away unbelieving. Let us be "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did the people try to entangle Jesus in His talk?
- 2 What is another word for tribute money?
- 3 Who was Cesar?
- 4 What should we render to God?
- 5 What was the false belief of the Sadducees?
- 6 How did Jesus answer tile Sadducees?
- 7 What did the Pharisees think of Christ?
- 8 Why was their answer only partly right?
- 9 Why must we believe the whole Bible?
- 10 Why is it necessary to do the commandments of God as well as hear them?