

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Encounters

With Jesus

Questioning Jesus

Matthew 22:15-46

Paying Taxes to Caesar

15Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. 16They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. 17Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

18But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? 19Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, 20and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

21"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

22When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Marriage at the Resurrection

23That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 24"Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. 25Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27Finally, the woman died. 28Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

29Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 31But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, 32'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'[\[a\]](#)? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." 33When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

The Greatest Commandment

34Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

36"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.[\[b\]](#) 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[\[c\]](#) 40All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Whose Son Is the Christ

41While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42"What do you think about the Christ[\[d\]](#)? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

43He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

44" The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies

under your feet." [\[e\]](#) 45If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46No one could say a word in reply, and from that

day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, Mar 2

Big Idea: Jesus welcomes our questions and asks us questions to help us better know Him.

Key Verse:

Matthew 15:42

“What do you think about the Christ?”

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passage.

Discussion Questions

- 1. If you could ask Jesus anything, what would you ask Him?**
- The passage highlights four scenarios where Jesus is either asked questions, or asking them. In each scenario determine the following: who questions Jesus; what is his answer; what is the result for the questioners?
- The issues in the passage were specific issues that everyone cared about and were hot topics of the day. What are some of the types of issues we face today that everyone cares about and are hot topics?
- How would or does Jesus answer the issues we face today?
- 5. Jesus final question to his questioners is a question for all of us to consider: What do you think about the Christ? Take some time in your group and share your thoughts about Jesus the Christ. Allow this time of sharing to guide you into prayer. You may spend time in adoration, confession, thanksgiving or supplication as you encounter different views of Jesus in your group.**
- 6. If Jesus could ask you anything, what would he ask you?**
- 7. Pray together as a group for each other.**

Leaders Notes

We begin our new series this week: Encounters with Jesus. Use this series to practice some of the techniques and disciplines you learnt about in the last series. This week focuses especially on scriptural reading and listening, especially questions 5, 6 and 7. Take time in your group to listen to each other and the Holy Spirit as you learn together.