

## Matthew 22 – Jesus’ Confrontation With The Religious Leaders

### *The structure*

- The religious leaders questioned Jesus’ authority (Matt 21:23-27)
  - Jesus told 3 parables against the religious leaders
    - Parable of the two sons (Matt 21:28-32)
    - Parable of the tenants of the vineyard (Matt 21:33-46)
    - Parable of the wedding feast (Matt 22:1-14)
  - The religious leaders issued 3 challenges for Jesus
    - The Pharisees’ and the Herodians’ challenge: To Pay or Not to Pay Tax? (Matt 22:15-22)
    - The Sadducees’ challenge: Surely, there is no resurrection! (Matt 22:23-33)
    - The Pharisees’ challenge: Which is the great commandment of the Law? (Matt 22:34-40)
- Jesus questioned the religious leaders about the identity and authority of the Christ (Matt 22:41-46)

### **1. Jesus’ parable of the wedding feast: You are called, but not chosen! (Matt 22:1-14)**

#### Implications:

- Outright rejection of God’s invitation (Jesus) results in rejection from entry into the kingdom of heaven.
- Take heed to Jesus’ warning and make sure we and those whom we are discipling are “clothed” in Jesus.

### **2. The Pharisees’ and the Herodians’ challenge: To Pay or Not to Pay Tax? (Matt 22:15-22)**

#### Implications:

- Framework to look at our obligations toward the nation and toward God.
- Rom 13:1-7, when nation and God are complementary.
- Acts 5:29, when nation and God are in conflict.
- Caution: Not to use one side to excuse failure to fulfill obligations for the other side.

### **3. The Sadducees’ challenge: Surely, there is no resurrection! (Matt 22:23-33)**

#### Implications:

- What has been revealed, hold tight (Rev 21:1-4); what is still concealed, await with anticipation for the day of revelation
- Don’t indulge in speculations

### **4. The Pharisees’ challenge: Which is the great commandment of the Law? (Matt 22:34-40)**

#### Implications:

- A practical way of rendering to God what belongs to God.
- Keeping laws/rules as an expression of love (cf. 1 John 5:3).
- Our failure to keep God’s commandments should drive us to seek refuge in the Christ/Messiah.

### **5. Jesus’ counter challenge: What do you think about the Christ? (Matt 22:41-46)**

#### Implication:

- Growing in knowledge and submission to Jesus the Christ

## **Conclusion**