

Tricky Questions: Two Can Play This Game

Matthew 22:15-46; Romans 13:1-10

I. THE TAX QUESTION (15-22)—*A Political Minefield*

A. The Plot (15-18; Ps 2:2; Jas 3:2)—*to entangle Jesus in His talk*

1. The Unlikely Coalition

- a. **Pharisees**—the teachers, experts in the Jewish Law and its application
- b. **Herodians**—Jews who were loyal to the family of King Herod and Rome

2. The Blatant Flattery (16; Pr 26:23-28 & 29:5)—red flag!

3. The Hidden Malice (18)—ill will or spite, desire to cause harm or suffering

B. The Answer (18-22)—*pointing out the bigger question*

1. Calling out Hypocrisy (18)—Actors, posers, I know what you're doing!

2. Using a Visual (19)—the coin, the silver denarius

3. Framing the Question (20-21)—the context, the bigger picture

- a. **The Image of Caesar**—The coin is stamped with *Caesar's image*.
- b. **The Image of God**—A human being is stamped with *God's image*.

C. The Effect (22)

1. **They Marveled**—surprise, wonder, a grudging admiration
2. **They Went Away**—bested, educated

II. THE RESURRECTION QUANDARY (23-34)—*A Theological Straw Man*

A. The Exaggerated Narrative—a test case for a problematic doctrine.

B. The Skeptical Sadducees—did not believe Resurrection, only accepted the Pentateuch

C. The Mosaic Law—All Scripture is God-breathed; so, it's all consistent.

D. The Stern Reprimand (29-32)

1. **You are wrong.** Jesus confronts their false assumption head-on.
2. **You don't know.** Jesus points out their ignorance and unbelief.
 - a. **The Scriptures.** (Mat 5:18)—If God said it, it's true and it will hold up to scrutiny.
(The Authority of Scripture; the Significance of Grammar)
 - b. **The power of God** (Lk 1:37; Mat 17:20 & 19:26)—If God promised it, He will do it.

E. The Insider Information (30)—*There is no marriage in Heaven!*

F. The Powerful Effect (33)

1. **The crowd was astonished** (33)—even more impressed with Jesus
2. **The Sadducees were silenced** (34)—Now who looks foolish?

III. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT (34-40; Mark 12:28-34)—*A Legal Theory Assessment*

A. The Plot

1. **A Lawyer**—*a trained expert in Jewish Law*
2. **A Test**—*try to make Jesus look foolish arguing with an expert authority*

B. The Answer (37-40; Rom 13:10)

1. **The Heart of the Law is Relational**—Love of God and Love of Neighbor
2. **The Logic of the Law is Understandable and Consistent.**
3. **The Understanding of Jesus is Without Equal.** (Ps 119:99; Jn 1:18; Col 1:15-17 & 2:9)

IV. THE FATHER OF THE CHRIST (41-46)—*A Question of Authority*

A. Prophetic Psalms (2 Tim 3:16; Lk 24:27)

B. Two Natures

1. **David's Son**—Human descendent of King David, man with a right to David's throne.
2. **God's Son**—He is divine; He has a right to sit on the very Throne of God.

C. No One Dared (46)