

“Render to God that which is His!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Explain speakers:** Demo-ing speakers as part of our Worship Room remodel.
 - 1.1.1. It's moving from a center cluster to the 2 sets.
 - 1.1.2. Our **existing system** was **Intense w/o Clarity**; this **new system** gives **Clarity w/o Intensity**.
 - 1.1.3. This is not even dialed into our room, & w/no treatment of the walls.
- 1.2. **Questions!!!** – Consider this true story about a very successful grocery store in Connecticut. Stu Leonards' grocery store grossed over \$100 million last year. The average grocery store makes \$300 per square foot. Stu's preparation generates an amazing \$3,000 per square foot. The average grocery store stocks **15,000 items**; Stu stocks only **700**. Stu has profited immensely from the art of **listening** and **asking the right questions**.
 One day Stu asked a lady, "What do you think of our fresh fish?" She says, "I don't think that the fish is fresh." After explaining it is fresh every day from Boston's Pier she still wasn't convinced so **he asked two questions**:
 (1) "**What do you mean our fish is not fresh?**" She said, "Look at it. It just doesn't look fresh to me. You have that filet sitting on a **green cardboard container**. You have **plastic wrap** over the filet -- and it's **wrinkled**. Finally, you have a **price sticker** over half of the filet." He asked her a second question:
 (2) "**What would fresh fish look like to you?**" "I go to Boston all the time," she said. "**I like to see the fish on ice.**" Stu walked across the aisle and laid the fish flat on the ice. Fish sales soared from 15,000 lbs. a week to 30,000 lbs. a week and stayed at that level. - **Listening & asking the right questions** holds tremendous opportunity for all of us...**unless you're not sincere with your questions!!!**
- 1.3. **Outline:** [1] **Paying Taxes** [2] **Resurrection & Marriage** [3] **The Nature of Messiah** [4] **Jesus denounces the Jewish Leaders**.

2. **PAYING TAXES! (20-26)**

- 2.1. Well, I missed teaching on **paying taxes** before **April 15th** but here we go...
- 2.2. **Their Deceit!** (20-22)
- 2.3. Still people today **pretending to be righteous!**
- 2.4. Oh that we might **seize upon His words!** (the right way, not to entrap)
- 2.5. **2 attempts to set Jesus up:**
 - 2.5.1. **1st** by flattery; **2nd** by asking him a double-edged question.
- 2.6. (24) **Show me a denarius – show pic.**
 - 2.6.1. On the **obverse** (main side of coin) was **the image** of Tiberius Caesar.
 - 2.6.2. On the **reverse** was **the inscription Pontif(ex) Maxim(us)** [Chief Pontiff/Priest]
 - 2.6.2.1. **His face** on one side, **his title** on the other. [*mom Livia seated*]

- 2.7. This was an annual **poll tax**. (Romans began to impose this in 6 ad)
- 2.7.1. The imposition of this tax led to a **Jewish rebellion** under *Judas the Galilean* in **Acts 5:37**.
- 2.7.1.1. Romans required the payment of the tax w/a **special coin** imprinted w/a likeness of the emperor.
- 2.7.1.2. Use of this coin **angered** the Jews.
- 2.8. I don't think he had a **denarius** of his own.
- 2.8.1. We know **Judas** carried the bag, & Luke told us **the women** who followed Him supported his ministry.
- 2.8.2. I remember watching a special on **Bill Gates** & the last question of the interview was "how much money do you carry on you?" A: "none".
- 2.8.2.1. The wealthiest man on earth w/no cash on him. (like Jesus)
- 2.8.3. But here I picture Jesus taking that coin & laying it on his hand.
- 2.8.3.1. Very soon that hand was to be **pierced** by a nail under the authority of the man whose portrait He looked at.
- 2.8.3.2. Whose image & inscription is this? Caesar, *Pontifex Maximus*?
- 2.9. **Their Defeat!** (23–26)
- 2.10. It was a perfect trap!
- 2.10.1. To affirm would alienate him from **the Jews** who were against this tax.
- 2.10.2. To deny the lawfulness of this tax would bring **Roman** wrath upon him
- 2.10.3. **So Jesus hits them right between the horns of their dilemma.**
- 2.11. But Jesus did not deal with it as a **political** question. **He saw it as a spiritual issue!**
- 2.11.1. Just as **the coin** bore the image of **Caesar**, so **man** bears the image of **God** and has a responsibility to Him.
- 2.11.1.1. But that also means we have a responsibility to human government, because government was instituted by God (Rom13)
- 2.11.2. It is not an **either/or** situation, but a **both/and!**
- 2.12. **If you live under** a governments rule; **If you are protected** by your government (police, military, national guard, etc); **If you are using your governments money** to buy & sell; **then you are in debt** to the gov under which you **live & enjoy** its benefits.
- 2.13. **Q: But whose image & superscription is upon you?**
- 2.13.1. The **greatest Potentate** is stamped upon **every human face... God Himself!** – We have been made in the **image & likeness** of God!
- 2.13.1.1. The **superscription** on every human life is that God alone is **Pontifex Maximus.**
- 2.13.2. Thus He said in effect, "**As is the coin to Caesar, so are you to God.**"
- 2.13.3. **Give to Caesar what's his, but don't forget to give to God what is His!**
- 2.14. **Q: So what's God's?** [Everything I **have**, everything I **am!**]

- 2.15. If you live under a God's rule; If you are **protected** by your God; If you are using God's power & gifts; **then** you are in debt to God under which you **live & enjoy His benefits**.
- 2.15.1. **Read - Rom.13:7,8** (our debt to Him is love)
- 2.16. Christians must accept the state as ordained by God & render respect & obedience to the governments.
- 2.16.1. When a conflict arises between our allegiance to the state & our allegiance to God, we must be true to God.¹

3. **RESURRECTION & MARRIAGE! (27-40)**

- 3.1. 1st let me define a Sadducee: "conservative, aristocratic, high-priestly party, worldly minded & very ready to co-operate w/the Romans."
- 3.2. **The Sadducees' Silly Example!** (27-33)
- 3.2.1. Their **intent** was to make the idea of a resurrection...**a joke!**
- 3.2.2. A woman marries 7 brothers & was left a widow after each marriage. Finally, she dies. In the resurrection, whose wife will she be?
- 3.2.2.1. "When they meet on the other side, whose wife will she be?"
- 3.2.3. Hypothetical situation or true story? – doesn't really matter but I mentioned on Wed night bible study, "*Mickey Rooney, Elizabeth Taylor, & Lana Turner have each been married 8 x's.*"
- 3.3. **The Sadducees' Serious Errors!** (34-40) 2 objections:
- 3.3.1. **There are no** marriages as such in heaven (34-36); **There is a** resurrection (37-40).
- 3.3.2. Note **this age** vs. **that age!**
- 3.4. God speaks to Moses at the burning bush "**I am the God of your father the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**" (Ex.3:5,6)
- 3.4.1. God didn't say, "**I was the God of...**" but "**I am the God of...**" proving Patriarchs still live!
- 3.4.1.1. Imagine a **man** standing in a **cemetery** boasting, "**I have authority over all these dead bodies!**" – **Ok!** (what kind of authority is that???)
- 3.4.2. A continuation of **life after death** implies a future **resurrection**; for God had made covenant promises to **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** that included **future blessings**.
- 3.4.3. These men you call "dead" were not dead!
- 3.5. So, **their question** was answered; **their Naturalism** was denied (belief that all religious truth is derived from nature and natural causes, & not from revelation); **their Philosophy** was contradicted; **their trivial question** was laughed out of court.

¹ Shepherd's notes; pg.74

- 3.5.1. He affirmed the **immortality of man**. He declared that men who died(as we use the word) **do not die** because God is **the God of the living!**

4. **THE NATURE OF MESSIAH! (41-44)**

- 4.1. His critics decided to ask no further questions, **so** Jesus took the **offensive** & asked them a question, about their designation of Messiah as **the Son of David**.
- 4.1.1. Jesus quotes the *most often quoted* OT scripture...**Ps.110:1**.
- 4.2. The answer, of course, is in the incarnation.
- 4.2.1. Messiah is **David's Lord** because He is God, but He is **David's son** because He became man and was born into David's family.
- 4.2.2. Jesus is both "**the root and offspring of David**" (Rev 22:16).
- 4.2.3. As the "**root of David**," **He** brought **David** into existence; **but**
As the "**offspring of David**," **David** brought **Him** into the world.
- 4.3. He is **David's son**, thus affirming his **humanity**.
- 4.4. He is **David's Lord**, thus affirming his **deity**.

5. **JESUS DENOUNCES THE JEWISH LEADERS! (45-47)**

- 5.1. Jesus moved from doctrine to practice and publicly exposed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders.
- 5.1.1. **Here is religion at its worst!**
- 5.1.2. These leaders were using their religions to **advance their own personal ambitions & to feed their pride**.
- 5.1.3. **Q:** I wonder what are parallels in today's religious structure?
- 5.2. **Their Pride!** (45-46)
- 5.2.1. In their garments, their desire for greetings and compliments, and their quest for prominent places, they proved themselves to be anything but servants.
- 5.2.2. They loved **their uniform** because it indicated **their office** wherever they went!
- 5.3. **Their Cruelty!** (47a)
- 5.3.1. They cheat widows out of their property.
- 5.3.2. They used religion to rob the needy and keep the money for themselves.
- 5.3.3. **Did you know:** When Jerusalem was sacked by the Romans legions, they found no less than **2 ½ million sterling** inside!²
- 5.3.3.1. Maybe this is why Jesus **overturned the tables** in the temple both at the **beginning** & again at the **end** of his ministry!

² G. Campbell Morgan; Luke; pg. 233

- 5.4. **Their Hypocrisy!** (47b)
- 5.4.1. They make long prayers in public.
- 5.4.2. **Samuel Chadwick**(minister during the late 1800's & early 1900's) said **when he went away from his home, he wrote every day to his wife.** And when he was going a **short journey their letters were short;** and the **further** away he went, the **longer his letters were;** & that reminded him of some people. He thought “some people must be a **long distance** from God because **their prayers were so long!**”
- 5.5. The inspiration of all their activity was **self-centered.**
- 5.6. God is seeking **servants, not celebrities;** *He sees the heart!*
- 5.7. **Listen,**...those people who seem “**too spiritual** to be true”...usually **aren't!**
- 5.8. **Their Punishment!** (47c)
- 5.8.1. Their punishment will be great.
- 5.8.2. And what a **sober warning** Jesus ends with, “**beware** of those who love only the things that minister to themselves.”

