

# Matthew

The Gospel of

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

## LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

### MATTHEW 22

#### Day 1



*Father, incline my heart to you so that I will love your word and your ways. (Ps.119:36) Open my eye now to see and understand wonderful things in your word (Ps.119:18)*

- Read chapter 22
- In chapter 22 Jesus tells the third parable establishing the guilt and coming judgment of Israel and its leaders. Four debates with the religious leaders follow the parable. Take note of the themes that run throughout these four confrontations.
- What is one truth in today's passage that moves your heart to praise, thanksgiving, confession, action or love for God?

#### Day 2- Matthew 22:1-14

We pick up in this chapter where we left off—on Tuesday of Passion Week. This is Jesus' third parable of warning directed to the religious leaders.

1. Describe the king and his actions in Jesus' parable in verses 1-4.

Scholar's Note: "Prospective guests to a major feast were invited in advance and then notified when the feast was ready."<sup>1</sup> "This was common in the ancient world, since the

elaborate preparations required meant that no definite date could be given at first. The first invitation informed them of the coming event (presupposed here), and the second tells them the exact date (...vv. 3-4). So they have already agreed to come."<sup>2</sup>

2. What words describe the actions of the invited guests in verses 3-6?

-What is so astonishing about this?

3. Why was the king's response in verse 7 justified?

4. The guests who knew the king refused to come so who then, does the king invite to the feast according to verses 9-10?

Picture and Ponder: "The banquet will go on because the king shows genuine grace, inviting those who have no relationship with him. There is no reason to invite them to the feast other than his desire to honor his son on his wedding day."<sup>3</sup>

Digging Deeper: In verses 11-14 Jesus' parable tells of one of the wedding guests not wearing the proper wedding clothes and being cast out. Read from Revelation and Isaiah below and answer the following questions:

-What do the wedding clothes represent in Revelation 7 and Isaiah 61 and who is wearing them?

-What do the wedding clothes represent in Revelation 19?

-How are the two connected?

*Revelation 7:9, 14b After this I looked and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

*Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*Revelation 19:7-8 "...Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.*

5. According to verse 13, what is the final judgment for those without wedding clothes— those who would try and enter the kingdom without turning to Jesus in repentance and without the fruit of repentance—a godly life?

6. Match the following from the parable:

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ___King                             | a. The Kingdom/Heaven/eternal life |
| ___Son/Bridegroom                   | b. Church/Gentiles/Believing Jews  |
| ___Servants                         | c. Jesus                           |
| ___Wedding Feast                    | d. Israel/Jewish people            |
| ___Original people who were invited | e. God                             |
| ___People who were invited secondf. | Prophets/Apostles                  |

7. Keeping verse 14 in context with Jesus' parable, who were the "many" in the story who were called?

-Who were the "few" who were chosen?

8. What spiritual truths do you see in Jesus' parable about:

Grace-

Judgment-

Calling-

Fruitless lives-



Jesus' parable of the Wedding Feast paints such a vivid picture of the grace and generosity of God and of the hardhearted ingratitude and rebellion of those who reject Jesus. God has prepared such a lavish feast in eternity for his children that we do not even have the capacity to imagine it! And it is for anyone who will turn from their sin and self-saving efforts and place their trust in Jesus.

- ❖ If you have surrendered to Jesus and placed your trust in him for salvation then take time right now and praise and thank him for his graciousness and mercy to you.
- ❖ If you have not given your life to Jesus and asked him to forgive your sins and to enable you to follow him and live for him, you can do that right now just by asking him. Share with your leader the decision you have made to follow Jesus as your King.
- ❖ When you trust Jesus to be your King and Savior you will begin to look like you are going to the wedding! Righteous, godly lives are *evidence* that God has saved us, not the *reason* God saves us. In the verses below, circle the words and phrases that show who Jesus has freely made us to be. Underline the fruit that comes from being joined to Jesus.

*Colossians 3:12-15 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*



Thank you Father that you poured out your grace on me when I was wandering alone and wanting nothing to do with you. Thank you for bringing me in and letting me feast on your abundance. Help me to grow to reflect you more and more.

### Day 3- Matthew 22:15-22

9. Jesus knows that the Pharisees are hypocrites and full of malice. How do they exhibit this in verses 15-22?

Scholar's Note: "This is the only place in Matthew that "Herodians" are mentioned...We know little about them, but most assume they were influential supporters of Herod and therefore of Rome, perhaps affiliated religiously and politically with the Sadducees, but mainly seeking full "Herodian" control of Palestine."<sup>4</sup>

10. The group of questioners asks Jesus a yes or no question in verse 17, hoping to trap him. What are the implications if he answers yes? What are they if he answers no?

Scholar's Note: Roman coins bore an image of the emperor's head along with an inscription – "Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus" on one side and "pontifex maximus" meaning "high priest" on the other. The coins were used to "promote the emperor's deity and the emperor cult required all members of the empire to pay homage to the emperor or even offer him direct worship [though] Jews were not bound to this [aspect]."<sup>5</sup>

Digging Deeper: Jesus' brilliant answer was to *render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's*. Read the Scriptures below and answer the following questions:

-What do we "owe" (render) to the government authorities and what belongs only to God according to the verses below?

-How far does God's sovereignty extend?

*Romans 13:1-2,6-7 Let Every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

*Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment...For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

*1 Peter 2:13-14 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.*

*Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.*

*Acts 5:29b ... We must obey God rather than men.*

*Exodus 34:14 ...for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—*

*Deuteronomy 6:13-14 You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you...(NASB)*

11. How did the questioners respond to Jesus' answer according to verse 22?



*For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine...for the world and its fullness are mine. (Ps.50:10-12)* Jesus wasn't ruffled about paying taxes to Caesar— it all belongs to God anyway. The coin bore Caesar's image, but we bear God's image. We live in his world and as his children, our lives and everything we have belong to God. Worship is the dedication of everything we are and everything we have to the exaltation of his name and the advancement of his kingdom.

- ❖ Why does Jesus not get upset about paying taxes? How can you adopt this attitude?
  
- ❖ Why can't we divide life into the secular (Caesar) and the sacred (God)?

#### **Day 4- Matthew 22:23-33**

11. How are the Sadducees trying to prove their belief that there is no resurrection in verses 24-28?

Scholar's Note: "The purpose of levirate marriage was to protect the name of a deceased brother without children and to guarantee that he would have legal heirs and thus the ancestral lands would continue in the family, as well as to take care of the widow who would often be left destitute. So when a man died childless, his brother was supposed to marry his wife and bear children in his name."<sup>6</sup>

12. The Sadducee's unlikely hypothetical is designed to mock the existence of life after death. They want Jesus to choose between polygamy or eternal life. Jesus once again, rejects the premise of his questioners. Why does he say they are wrong according to verse 29?

-What does the Sadducee's unbelief of resurrection/life after death show about their belief of the power of God?

13. What is Jesus' first point in verse 30 that refutes the polygamy question?

14. Now in verses 31-32, Jesus reveals the Sadducee's deficient knowledge of Scripture. What point is Jesus making about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

 Old Testament Ties

Jesus quotes Exodus 3:6 to show the Sadducees that there is life after death. In this verse God is speaking to Moses in the burning bush hundreds of years after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had lived. If Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were dead and not alive in heaven, what verb tense would God have used when he was talking to Moses?

*Exodus 3:4-6 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."** And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*



The religious leaders who are trying to trap Jesus are so sure of themselves and their "superior" knowledge—and Jesus annihilates them every time! You'd think they would have learned by now! But then again how often do we act like we know better than God? Meditate on the rich verses below.

*Romans 11:33-34 Oh the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"*

*Isaiah 40:12-14 Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? Has the LORD ever needed anyone's advice? Does he need instruction about what is good? Did someone teach him what is right or show him the path of justice? (NLT)*

❖ What are some ways you act like you know better than God?



*Father forgive me for my worry and my efforts to control that often show that I think I know better than you do. Help me to remember and believe the depths of the riches of wisdom and knowledge that you have.*

## Day 5- Matthew 22:34-46

15. The Pharisees and Sadducees, usually adversaries, now gather together to test Jesus further. What is the question the Pharisee asks Jesus according to verse 36?

For Discussion: Why do you think to love God with all your heart and soul and mind is the greatest command?

Digging Deeper: Read Exodus 20:3-17. How does loving God with all heart, soul and mind and loving your neighbor as yourself sum up each of the 10 commandments?

*Exodus 20:3-17<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me.*

*<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

*<sup>7</sup> "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

*<sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

*<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

*<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder.*

*<sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery.*

<sup>15</sup> *"You shall not steal.*

<sup>16</sup> *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

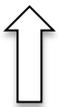
<sup>17</sup> *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."*

Scholar's Note: "[Commentator], Terrance A. Donaldson calls "hang" (depend from verse 40) a "rabbinic formulation" that means these two commands fulfill and provide a deeper understanding of Torah.<sup>7</sup>



Heart, soul and mind is the biblical way to say the entire self—every ability and affection, all thoughts and inclinations, each facet of your personality— all focused toward God in obedience and devotion. God is worthy of no less than this. Yet on our own we are incapable of this kind of love. It is only possible through union with Jesus.

- ❖ We love him only because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19) If your heart is not warm with affection for God, immerse yourself in scriptures that tell of his love for you. Pray that you will know and understand how much he loves you.
- ❖ What actions come out of authentic love for God?
- ❖ Why does love for others flow out of love for God?
- ❖ How does loving others go beyond doing no harm to them?
- ❖ What ways do you love yourself that you should also love others?



*Father cause my heart to love you more deeply! Pour out your love by your Holy Spirit into my heart so that it flows out in love toward others.*

Picture and Ponder: "There is much vague talk in these latter days about love and charity. Men profess to admire them and desire to see them increased and yet hate the principles which alone can produce them. Let us stand fast in the old paths. We

cannot have fruits and flowers without roots. We cannot have love for God and man without faith in Christ and without regeneration. The way to spread true love in the world is to teach the atonement of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit."<sup>8</sup> (This was written by J.C. Ryle who lived from 1816-1900. So relevant today!)

16. Next, Jesus turns the tables. What question does he ask the Pharisees in verse 42?

For Discussion: This is not the only time Jesus has asked his opponents "What do you think?" How could you use Jesus' technique in sharing the gospel?

Scholar's Note: "The most common aspect of first-century messianic belief was the Davidic overtones, with the Messiah a royal personage who would deliver Israel from her enemies after the pattern of David's victories."<sup>9</sup>

#### Old Testament Ties

In verse 44, Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1, a Messianic Psalm of King David spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For better understanding read the Psalm below with clarifications in the parenthesis.

(David speaking) *The LORD (Yahweh/God) says to my Lord (Messiah/Jesus):  
"Sit at my right hand,  
Until I make your enemies your footstool."*

- How do the truths in this Psalm elevate the notion of Messiah as a human rescuer and king to something much more?

17. The Pharisees gave the expected answer in verse 42. Now Jesus wants to know in verse 45, what then does it mean if the Messiah is the son of David, but David calls him Lord?

-What is Jesus' question designed to do?

18. What two responses did Jesus get according to verse 46?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here. How will this truth impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

<sup>2</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 21342-21345). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Doriani, Daniel M.. Matthew (Reformed Expository Commentaries) (p. 590). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 21637-21640). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> Doriani, Daniel M.. Matthew (Reformed Expository Commentaries) (p. 590). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 21844-21846). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

<sup>7</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 22057-22058). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

<sup>8</sup> Ryle, J. C.. Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Matthew [Updated Edition]: A Commentary (p. 244). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>9</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 22157-22159). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

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