

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 89 - The Parable of the Wedding Banquet - Matthew 22:1-14

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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MT 22:1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: [2] "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. [3] He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

MT 22:4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

MT 22:5 "But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business. [6] The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. [7] The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

MT 22:8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. [9] Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' [10] So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

MT 22:11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. [12] 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

MT 22:13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

MT 22:14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 89 - The Parable of the Wedding Banquet - Matthew 22:1-14

1084. What preparations were being made in this parable? (22:2)

1085. What did the king send his servants to do? (22:3)

1086. How did people respond to the king's invitation? (22:3)

1087. Upon hearing that no one would come to the wedding, what did the king do? (22:4)

1088. How did the invited guests react to the king's second appeal? (22:5)

1089. To what shocking acts did some of the people who were invited resort? (22:6)

1090. How did the king deal with the lawbreakers? (22:7)

1091. The king went to a "Plan B" that included what changes? (22:8-9)

1092. How did the king's alternative plan work out? (22:10)

1093. What did the king say when he spotted an improperly dressed wedding guest? (22:11)

1094. What did the king order his servants to do with the man who was improperly dressed? (22:11-13)

1095. Why did the king throw out the unwelcome wedding guest? (22:13-14)

1096. The wedding clothes in the parable that were needed for admittance to the banquet are meant to symbolize what quality that is necessary for entry into the kingdom of heaven?

Lesson 90 – Paying Taxes to Caesar - Matthew 22:15-22

MT 22:15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. [16] They 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. [17] Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

MT 22:18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? [19] Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, [20] and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

MT 22:21 "Caesar's," they replied.

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

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 90 – Paying Taxes to Caesar - Matthew 22:15-22

1097. What group sought to trap Jesus? How? (22:15)
1098. What two groups were sent to Jesus? Why? (22:16)
1099. How did the Pharisees address Jesus? (22:16)
1100. How did the Pharisees describe Jesus' character? (22:16)
1101. How did the Pharisees describe Jesus' manner of teaching? (22:16)
1102. After all the flattery, what question did the Pharisees' disciples and the Herodians finally ask Jesus? (22:17)
1103. How did Jesus respond to all the false adulation He received in this incident? (22:18)
1104. What did Jesus say to the men who questioned Him? (22:18)
1105. What object did Jesus use to illustrate His answer? How? (22:19-20)
1106. How did Jesus answer the question without getting Himself in political hot water? (22:21)
1107. How did Jesus' opponents respond to Jesus' words? (22:22)

Lesson 91 - Marriage at the Resurrection - Matthew 22:23-33

MT 22:23 That 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. [25] Now 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. [26] The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. [27] Finally, the woman died. [28] Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

MT 22:29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. [30] At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. [31] But 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' ? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

MT 22:33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 91 - Marriage at the Resurrection - Matthew 22:23-33

1108. What group confronted or opposed Jesus? How? (22:23)
1109. What distinctive belief did the Sadducees hold? (22:23)
1110. To what authority did the Sadducees appeal in asking their question? (22:24)
1111. To what kind of law did the Sadducees defer? (22:24)
1112. What rare, unlikely scenario did the Sadducees describe for Jesus? (22:25-27)
1113. What question did the Sadducees finally put to Jesus? (22:28)
1114. What two important facts did Jesus charge the Sadducees with not knowing? (22:29)
1115. What did Jesus say about the institution of marriage in eternity? (22:30)
1116. What did Jesus say about angels and marriage? (22:30)
1117. How did Jesus prove that people will be raised from the dead? (22:31-32)
1118. How did the crowd react to this exchange? (22:33)
1119. In what ways can our doctrinal beliefs blind us to the truth?
1120. What questions asked by unbelievers do you have the most difficult time answering?

Lesson 92 - The Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:34-40

MT 22:34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. [35] One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: [36] "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

MT 22:37 Jesus replied: " `Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: `Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 92 - The Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:34-40

1121. Who heard that the Sadducees had been embarrassed by Jesus? How did they respond? (22:34)
1122. What did the Pharisees do? Why? (22:34)
1123. What sort of person was selected to address Jesus? (22:35)
1124. What was the Pharisee's purpose in asking Jesus a question? (22:35)
1125. What specific question did the man ask Jesus? (22:36)
1126. How did Jesus answer the Pharisee's question? (22:37)
1127. What kind of love did Jesus describe? (22:37)
1128. What important footnote did Jesus add to His answer? (22:39)
1129. What kind of love for one's neighbor did Jesus require? (22:39)
1130. How important did Jesus say these two principles were? (22:40)
1131. What does it mean to "love your neighbor as yourself"?

Lesson 93 - Whose Son Is the Christ? - Matthew 22:41-46

MT 22:41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, [42] "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

MT 22:43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

MT 22:44 " 'The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies

under your feet." `

MT 22:45 If then David calls him `Lord,' how can he be his son?" [46] No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 93 - Whose Son Is the Christ? - Matthew 22:41-46

- 1132. In what setting did this conversation take place? (22:41)
- 1133. What religious group had gathered? Why? (22:41)
- 1134. Who did the interrogation of Jesus? When? (22:41)
- 1135. What questions did Jesus ask? (22:42)
- 1136. What important fact did the Pharisees admit about Christ? (22:42)
- 1137. How did Jesus enlighten the Pharisees? (22:43-44)
- 1138. According to Jesus, under what special condition did David write? (22:43)
- 1139. What was important about the way David referred to Christ? (22:43-44)
- 1140. What final question did Jesus use to make His point? (22:45)
- 1141. What happened after Jesus silenced the Pharisees? (22:46)
- 1142. Why is the question, "Who is Jesus?" far more significant than any other issue?