

Discussion and Reflection Questions - Formed for the benefit of others
Pentecost 21A - 22nd of October 2023

Read: Matthew 22.15-33

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. ²³ The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, ²⁴ 'Teacher, Moses said, "If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother." ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶ The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³² "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.' ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Jesus is asked questions to test & entrap him. What are some of the things that people who do not believe ask Christians to test & entrap them? What would your response be?
2. Why do you think the Pharisees & Herodians compliment Jesus before asking the question about taxes?
3. What do you think they were hoping Jesus would say?
4. What do you think Jesus means by his response in verse 20-21
5. What do you think the Sadducees were hoping Jesus would say?
6. They did not believe in the resurrection, what makes you convinced about the resurrection? What questions or doubts do you have about it?
7. What do you think Jesus means by his response in verse 29-32

8. What comes out of this passage (exegesis) that helps you see the world differently?

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
grant that your Church throughout the world
may persevere with steadfast faith
in proclaiming the cross to be the way that leads to life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.