

BIG IDEA:**1) INTRO**

- Sticks & stones

2) SETTING THE STAGE

- It's Wednesday – Monday hailed as Messiah, Tues cleaned Temple
- Just & parables
 - To correct the Jewish leaders of day – rejection & hypocrisy
 - They knew JC was talking about them (21:45)
- So, they're angry & trying to stop him
 - Set out to trap JC in his words...to test him
 - Trying to discredit JC & his teaching
- The 1st scenario is the Pharisees & Herodians asking about taxes
- The 2nd scenario is the Sadd asking about the resurr

3) CONFRONTED BY PHARISEES & HERODIANS (vv15-22)

- Firstly, the Phar went to try to entangle him in his talk
 - Clearly didn't know who they were talking to
- Phar – hated JC, they were the religious leaders, always clashed w/ JC b/c they focused on having the right external action but neglected heart
- Herodians – subjects to Herod, were a political group, pro-Rome
 - Phar & Herodians were enemies politically & religiously but worked together to try to trap JC here
 - Saw JC as threat to their power & status
- They come full of flattery
 - Address him as “Teacher” even though they've questioned his authority before
 - Come trying to stroke his ego...as if they can...
- Come w/ a question on taxes
 - Appropriate as its tax season
 - “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?”
 - Come asking about money
 - Taxes were a volatile topic/issue in Israel...like today

- Phar & Herodians knew it
 - Either a yes or no would make either group mad
 - A “yes” meant he would alienate the people & lose popularity & show disloyalty to the Jewish nation (which is what the Pharisees hoped for)
 - A “no” meant the Herodians could charge him with treason against Rome
- Taxes were hated b/c it suggested that Rome owned even the people when they viewed themselves as God's possession
 - On top of that the most hated tax was the poll tax – the people rec'd no benefit from that one - roads, educ
 - Much of our tax seems unjust too/not for holy causes – can make us grumble
 - Sproul – “Christians should never vote on a tax that your neighbor would have to pay, but you wouldn't
 - Talk about money often shows where our heart are, doesn't it?
- So, JC calls them out – “hypocrites”
 - Pointing out they don't care what he thinks, trying to trap/test him
- JC says to bring him a coin for the tax
 - So, they bring him a denarius – day's wage for a laborer
 - And he asks who's on the coin... “Caesar”
 - Tiberius is the current Caesar/“ruler” at the time
 - On other side – “High Priest” or “Son of the Divine”
 - This would have been doubly offensive to the Jews as breaking the 1st & 2nd commandments
- But, JC says to give/pay back to the gov't the things that are gov't's & to God the things that are God's
 - So, pay your taxes; don't defraud the gov't; don't avoid paying taxes
- His reasoning – “whose image is on the coin?”
 - Caesar's image is on the coin...or Queen Elizabeth
- But, who's image is on you? Whose image do you bear?
 - Gen 1:27 – God created us in his image

- Imago Dei w/ youth group – we are distinctly diff – euthanasia, abortion, pets

- We are created in the image of God
- As God's image bearers, King JC wants us – our life, our body, our soul
- Living in submission & surrender to King JC – the Savior of our souls, the one who gave his life so that we'd have life – is what JC wants of us
- We're stamped w/ his image...not the image of Queen Elizabeth
 - We belong to King Jesus!
 - This "kingdom"/gov't of Canada – like all others...US, British, Russian, Chinese, etc – will all fall
 - But, the kingdom of heaven – God's reign and rule – will last for all eternity
- And, when they heard his reply, they marveled/impressed
 - Tried to trap him but he made his way out

4) CONFRONTED BY SADDUCEES (vv23-33)

- Even though they marveled, the testing continues
 - JC is confronted by the Sadducees
- Sadd are a diff group than they Pharisees...& Herodians
- Sadd hated the Phar & vice versa, hated JC, Pent, no resurr, like the secularists of the day – this life on earth is all there is, the only "life after death" was your offspring
 - Phar believed in a resurr
 - But, Sadd didn't...believed body & soul perished at death
 - In JC's time, Judaism as a whole held surprisingly diverse views of death & what lies beyond it
- Like Phar & Herodians, Sadd approach JC with insincere respect – "Teacher"
- They come w/ a hypothetical scenario (which Phar may have heard)
 - Reason is b/c the law in Deut 25
 - This was to provide for her & raise up offspring for the deceased brother
 - This had fallen out of practice over time

- Their question assumes that resurr life is like earthly life
- Probably asked this question before – "married in heaven??"
- JC answers
 - 1) "you're wrong"... no marriage in heaven, be like angels
 - Sadd didn't believe in angels either
 - JC does NOT say we become angels...become like them in this way only – not married, no children
 - Heaven will be a whole diff order, can't assume it's same as here
 - "Not good for man to be alone" – not so in heaven
 - Closeness in marriage
 - Closeness in heaven be even more, better, deeper, richer...w/ all the saints
 - 2) "have you not read" ... proves his point from Pent (Ex 3:6)...and he shuts them up (v34)
 - Based on the emphatic present tense "I am"
 - God is God of the living
 - In JC we are living forever
 - As humans, we're eternal beings

5) CONCL

- JC astonishes the crowd – "amazed to point of being overwhelmed"
- Are we amazed by JC? Astonished by him? Does he make us marvel?
 - We're stamped w/ his image
 - We belong to the God of the living...forever