

“WHAT DO YOU THINK?”

Matt 17:25-27; 22:17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A very effective method of teaching is the use of questions to stimulate the thought processes of one's hearers
- B. Jesus effectively used questions many times in His teaching
- C. Learn needed lessons by looking at questions Jesus ask
- D. Look at a few questions ask by our Lord and hopefully learn some important lessons from them

DISCUSSION:

I. “IS IT LAWFUL TO PAY TAXES TO CAESAR, OR NOT?”

Matt 22:17 (Civil responsibilities)

- A. Jesus teaches that paying taxes does not contradict a life of Obedience to God Matt 22:15-22
- B. God ordained civil government, so we are obligated to pay Taxes and submit to civil authority Rom 13:1-7
- C. Not only must a disciple pay his taxes, but he is also permitted to serve as a tax collector Lk 3:12,13
- D. Members of king's family are not taxed, but maintained by the taxes paid by others Matt 17:24-27 (25-26).
 - 1. By that logic, the Son of God exempt from temple tax
 - 2. Nevertheless, He who fulfilled the Law (Matt 5:17-18) submitted willingly to taxes Matt 17:27
 - 3. From His example, we learn to submit to taxes

II. “WHICH OF THESE... WAS NEIGHBOR TO HIM?”

Lk 10:36 (Social responsibilities)

- A. Jesus was asked: "who is my neighbor", in order to fulfill command "love your neighbor as yourself," Answer to Jesus' question: "he that showed mercy". Jesus said: "go and do thou likewise". The important thing is to be a good neighbor Luke 10:25-37
 - 1. Loving all people equally, even enemies Matt 5:43-44
 - 2. Respect consciences of those with stricter scruples than necessary Rom 15:1-3; Rom 14; 1Cor 8:10, 13)
- B. Every command given us falls into one of two categories, either love of God or love of neighbor Matt 22:34-40
 - 1. Love is the summary of all commands, & therefore the fulfillment of the Law Rom 13:8-10
 - 2. This violated by fighting among brethren Gal 5:14-15
 - 3. It is also violated by displays of partiality Jas 2:8-9
 - 4. Love demands telling of a fault as well as discipline Matt 18:15-17; 2Thess 3:6; Rev 3:19; Heb 12:5-11

III. “DOES HE NOT LEAVE THE NINETY-NINE... TO SEEK STRAYING?” Matt 18:12 (Evangelistic responsibilities)

- A. Rescuing one soul from sin is so important that it is worth leaving the saved to do it Matt 18:12-13
- B. Obligated in this regard because it is contrary to the will of God that anyone should die in his sins Matt 18:14
 - 1. God desires all men to be saved 1Tim 2:3-4
 - 2. This is why He has yet to destroy the world 2Pet 3:9

IV. “WHICH OF THE TWO DID THE WILL OF HIS FATHER?”

Matt 21:31 (Personal responsibilities)

- A. He who does the Father's will is he who obeys, not just he who says he will obey Matt 21:28-31
 - 1. Better not to say you will, if you don't plan to Eccl 5:5
 - 2. Many claim to be Christians, but few follow through
- B. One who acted was motivated by regret 2Cor 7:8-10

V. “ABOUT THE CHRIST? WHOSE SON IS HE?” Matt 22:42 (Introspective responsibilities)

- A. Jesus wanted to know what His disciples thought about the Christ. They affirmed Him to be son of David, but Jesus asked how that could be if David regarded the Christ as his Lord Matt 22:41-46
 - 1. Truly, David was assured that the Christ would be his descendant 2Sam 7:12-16; Psa 132:11-12
 - 2. When Jesus arrived in world, His genealogy proved He was the son of David Matt 1:1; Lk 1:32; Rom 1:3
 - 3. Jesus fulfilled the Davidic covenant Acts 2:29-36
- B. On another occasion, Jesus inquired of His disciples as to their understanding of His identity. In this instance, Peter testified Jesus to be "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" Matt 16:13-17
 - 1. The Bible was written so that we can arrive at the same conclusion Jhn 20:30-31
 - 2. Confession of this fact results in God abiding in us 1Jhn 4:15
 - 3. Confession of this fact should be followed by baptism Acts 8:35-38

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must make application of these questions and their implications to our own lives. (civil – social – evangelistic - personal – introspective)
- B. We must constantly question ourselves regarding our status with the Lord and His work
- C. Ask "Am I a Christian?"; "Have I obeyed the gospel?" if so, ask: "Am I working for the Lord as I ought?" "Am I faithfully serving Him?" "Do I have sins in my life that need to be confessed and forgiven?"

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