

# *4 BIG QUESTIONS*

Mark 12:13-37

WBF

4/26/20

{Parallel Passages: Matthew 22:23-46, Luke 20:20-44}

## ***SETTING THE STAGE ... DRAMA (TRUE)***

- Position within Gospel – Mark
  - 10 Chapters – Ministry of Jesus
  - 6 Chapters – Triumphal Entry → Last Week {Middle of the Week Now}
- Jerusalem – Passover
  - Center of Government, Passionate {Wash. DC}
  - Pilgrimage of Many: Jews/Others – Holiday, Feast {Lu 2:41-50, Jesus @12}
  - Purposeful Movement from Galilee, Capernaum, Other locations
- Temple
  - Concentration of Learning, Center of Debate
  - Gathering of most Influential & Learned
- History – Politics – Characters – Beliefs – Questions – Conflict
- Context/Reactions – Answers – Teaching – Faith – Witness



*Long way to go...  
Short time to Get  
there...!*

# HISTORY

- Rome
- Jerusalem
- 80 Day Journey (Land)
- > Month (Sea)
- 7 +/- Centuries
- Near End of Growth
- 63 BC Judea Addition



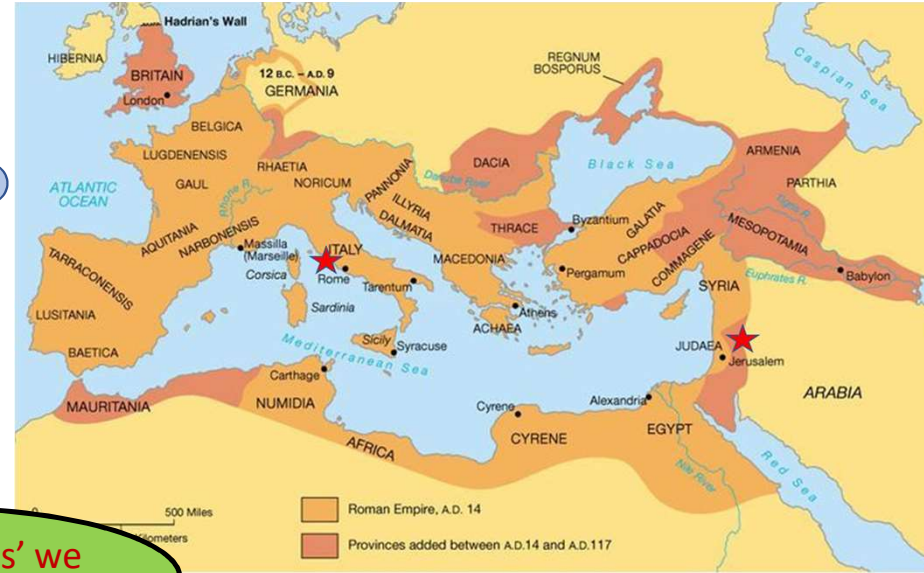
# POLITICS

- Republic?
- Empire?
- Ruling Classes
- Subdued...
- Rubber Stamp

Senate

Emperor

- Princes = 1<sup>st</sup> Citizen
- 'Caesar', god
- Tiberius
- Power, Army



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Mark 'Assumes' we KNOW all of this...

Governor Y

Governor X

Governor Judea

Sanhedrin

- Prefecture
- Military Guard
- Protection (x2)
- Peace Keeper
- Tax, Tribute
- Pontius Pilate
- Politician

- Jewish Law
- Theocracy (Moses)
- Toleration
- Limited Power
- Noble Classes
- 70, High Priest
- Caiaphas
- Taxes, Guard
- Political Party..

Political Party {Concept}:

- School of thought
- Organization
- 'Official'
- Well known
- Like minded people
- Combining THE 2 'difficult topics'
  - (Politics & Religion...)
- Much Different than USA mindset

## ***CHARACTERS***

### ***Sadducees***

- Accepted Law
- Pentateuch Only, Source
- Law w/o Miracle...
- Man Controls Destiny
- 'Practical' Approach to Life
- No Resurrection ...

A Political Spectrum...??

### ***Scribes***

- Students of the Law
- Academic Pursuit
- Experts
- Teachers (Rabbi)
- Literate/Learned/Noble
- Commoners Dependent
- Lawyers (Vocation)

## ***BELIEFS***

### ***Pharisees*** {Herodians}

- Added to Mosaic Law...
- Precedent Law
- Began w/ Moses—Ex. 18
- Way of Life...
- Attempt @ Righteousness
- Logical Approach
- Well meaning...at first

### ***Jesus {David}***

- Shepherd, Soldier, King
- Persecuted, Patient, Betrayed

- Adulterer, Murderer
- Poet, Musician, Prophet
- Man after God's Heart  
{Acts 13:22, 1 Sam. 13:14}

- Psalmist, Messianic
- Psalm 110:1

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Sadducees**

“...Moses wrote ... in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be?...”

- Complex Story
- Duet. 25:5, Ruth {Boaz}, Ge. 38 {Judah/Tamar}
- Practical Explanation
- Explain away Resurrection

THE Hard Questions, Long Debated, Argued...

### **Scribes**

“Which is the first commandment of all?”

- Searching for Simple Truth
- Lifetime’s Work

## **CONFLICT**

### **Pharisees**

“...Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Shall we pay or ... not pay?”

- Choose Sides → Wrong
- Which Law?
- Righteous Society, Separate From ‘World’
- Restore God’s Order or God Wrong

### **Jesus {David}**

If “...the Christ is the Son of David? ... David himself calls Him ‘Lord’, how is He then his Son?”

- Human Heritage, vs. Deity, Lord
- Riddle to Solve
- Present & Future Tense
- Prophecy, Well Known, Commonly Held Beliefs...
- Submission & Descendent

## *ANSWERS*

### *Sadducees*

“... mistaken, ...you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

- Procreation, Intimacy
- New Teaching by Jesus
- Burning Bush - Exodus 3:6
- Alive! NOT Dead...But?
- More to Life than physical
- God capable?

THE Answer that Satisfies  
ALL of the Questions...

### *Scribes*

“... love ... God with all your heart...soul... mind...strength... love ... neighbor as yourself.”

- Condensed 10 Commandments
- 2 Sentences ... Love...
- God, Neighbor, Me
- Remainder is redundant

## *TEACHING*

### *Pharisees*

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

- Both...Different Purpose
- God uses Both
- Roman Rule used by God...?
- Imposing on Others...

### *Jesus {David}*

*...Silence...Cheering...*

- Rhetorical Question
- Hermeneutics
- Riddle is only Resolved w/ one Solution
- Wraps up all Questions
- Commoner, Instinctual Response



# ANSWERS

## Sadducees

“... mistaken, ...you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

- Procreation, Intimacy
- New Testament
- Exodus 3:6
- Arrive! NOT Dead...But?
- More to Life than physical
- God capable?

**Resurrection!**

THE Answer that Satisfies ALL of the Questions...

## Scribes

“... love ... God with all your heart...soul... mind...strength... love ... neighbor as yourself”

- Commandments
- 2 sentences ... Love...
- God, Neighbor, Me
- Remainder is redundant

**Love!**

# TEACHING

## Pharisees

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s”

- Both
- Roman Rule used by God...?
- Imposing on Others...

**Tutor!**

## Jesus {David}

...Silence...Cheering...

- Rhetorical Question
- Hermeneutics

- Riddle is only Resolved w/ one Solution
- W/ Questions

**Prophecy!**

- Commoner, Instinctual Response



**VINE  
DRESSER  
PARABLE**

'...they knew He had spoken the parable against them...' {v. 12}

'...to catch Him in His words...' {v. 13}

**REACTIONS**



Aristocracy  
Educated  
Powerful  
Logical

**P**

'...and they marveled at Him...' {v. 17}

**S<sub>A</sub>**

'...perceiving that He had answered them well...' {v. 28}

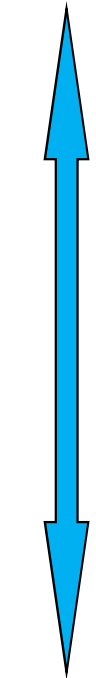
**S<sub>C</sub>**

'...after that no one dared question Him...' {v. 34}

**D**

'...the common people heard Him gladly...' {v. 37}

*Simple Faith  
Can be  
Understood*



Common  
Illiterate  
Masses  
Instinctual

## ***Q: OF FAITH...?***

### ***Life after Death***

- Yes!
- Bodily Resurrection
- Demonstrated
- Die, Yet Living
- Not the Same
- Inanimate, Different
- Power of God
- Faith

***Hope!***

Christian Faith Answers  
the Hard Questions...

### ***Core Values***

- There is a God, NOT Me
- Love – Tender,  
Passionate Affection
- Put others first
- Purpose, Direction

***Purpose!***

## ***WITNESS***

### ***Relate to Society***

- Aliens, Citizens of a  
'Distant' Land
- Here for a Time
- Clear Separation
- Clear Purpose, NO  
Mistake
- Purpose for us to Learn

***Perseverance!***

### ***History***

- History, Prophecy stands
- Before Christ
- Fulfilled in Christ

- Since Christ
- Explains the Church

***Faith!***

- Resurrection of Christ
- Sacrificial Effort by Many

*THANK-YOU*

*WE MISS YOU!*