

## Yearning Toward Israel's leaders

Matthew 22: 15-46; Mark 12: 13-37; Luke 20: 20-47;

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Dementia has not yet set in, yet; I remember what the title for this lesson was. That said, I want to look at this lesson through a few different lenses. For me, this is about the character of God.

1. Jesus following a style of progression He used for millennia to draw/then warn people to safety.
2. The leaders were willing to use a divisiveness that could cause them harm or loss of allies, in order to trap Someone they perceived as taking their power. What do you think led them to their tactics?
3. What do you think are the varying perspectives on power here?
4. A lesson on intimacy.
5. We have three different writers for these stories: a tax collector, a mixed race/culture evangelist; an **itinerant** physician. How do you think who they are affects their perspective of these narratives?

## **Paying the Imperial Tax**

1. Why were the Pharisees and the Herodians here? Why not the Sadducees?
2. What do you think was the lesson for the questioners?
3. What do you think was the lesson for the people listening in?
4. What is the lesson for us in this century?
5. How would Matthew have felt about this event? Do you think he was there? How would this story have affected Luke the healer? How would Mark, raised in a bicultural family and a multicultural context, have seen this story?
6. What are the ways Jesus may have been trying to use this trap to help the questioners find His truth?

## **Levitical Marriage: Resurrection: An Unmasked-for Lesson in intimacy.**

1. What does it say to you that Sadducees brought up this conundrum?
2. What was the primary purpose of Levitical marriage practiced in Israel?
3. What did it have to do with relational intimacy?
4. Why was seven the number used in the tale?
5. Why will there not be Levitical marriage in Heaven?
6. What do you think are the components of intimacy?
7. What do you think intimacy between the angels is like?
8. Something about this story leaves me thinking of David and Jonathan.
9. What are the ways Jesus is reaching out to the Sadducees here?

## **The Greatest Commandment:**

We could probably spend the whole lesson is this statement but again...what would be a saving benefit to the Pharisees if they could see this truth?

## **David, Jesus, and Heredity.**

1. Jesus opened up this conversation. Why?
2. In Jesus' lineage, David and Bathsheba are mentioned in Matthew. How would seeing David as the progenitor of Jesus affect they way they might see Jesus
3. Why was it important for Jesus to make His complicated mix of lineage clear?
4. What are the ways He may have been wooing the Pharisees in this exchange?