

Matthew Series

Lesson #134

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:34–40

Three Consecutive Parables (Matt. 21:28–22:22)

- 1. Each develops a more subtle answer to the question of Jesus' authority.**
- 2. Each involves a father, son(s), and the rejection of the father's authority.**
- 3. Each parable is addressed to the unsaved, non-believing religious leaders, not the multitude.**
- 4. Each builds the case for God's rejection of the religious leaders of Israel, even as they are rejecting His Son.**

Three Questions (Matt. 22:15–40):

1. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?

Matt. 22:15–22

2. In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? Matt. 22:23–33

3. Teacher, which is the great commandment of the Law? Matt. 22:34–40

Jesus' Counter Question:

4. Whose Son is the Messiah? Matt. 22:41–46

I. The Attack, Mark 12:28; Matthew 22:34–36

A. An opening introduction that takes us back to the Pharisees as the questioners (22:34),

B. One of the Pharisees who is also a scribe and an expert on the Torah asks another trick question (22:35–36), and

II. The Response

A. Then we find Jesus' answer which once again avoids the trap and skewers them with the truth (22:37–40).

1. First, Jesus cites Deut. 6:5 (Matt. 22:37)

2. Then Jesus cites that Scripture: Lev. 19:18 (Matt. 22:39b)

He then makes a third comment, that all of the Torah, all biblical instruction, hangs on these two commandments.

B. The Scribe recovers and tells Jesus that

Mark 12:32, “So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.’”

Mark 12:33, “ ‘And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ ”

III. The Result: Jesus tells him that he is not far from the kingdom of God, but the Pharisees are now shut down, just like the Sadducees.

Mark 12:34, “Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ But after that no one dared question Him.”

Matt. 22:34, “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.”

Matt. 22:35, “Then one of them, a lawyer, [*nomikos—expert in the Torah*] asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

Matt. 22:36, “ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ ”

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Mark 12:28, “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ ”

The scribes declared that there were 248 affirmative precepts as many as the members of the human body; and 365 negative precepts, as many as the days in the year; the total being 613, the number of letters in the Decalogue.

Mark 12:29, “Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: “*Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

Mark 12:30, “ ‘ “And you shall love the *LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*” This is the first commandment.

Mark 12:31, “ ‘ And the second, like it, is this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ ”

Mark 12:30, “ ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

ἀγαπάω *agapaō* pres act infin to love

**καρδία *kardia* gen fem sing heart, fig.,
for the mind, or inner most thoughts**

**σύνεσις *sunesis* gen fem sing
understanding, intelligence**

ἰσχύς *ischus* gen fem sing strength, might

Mark 12:30, “ ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

Matt. 22:37, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ”

Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

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לֵבָב *levav*

**heart, mind,
understanding**

נֶפֶשׁ

nefesh
soul

מְאֹד *me'od*

**very,
exceedingly,
much, force,
abundance**

Berakot 2:5

- C. M'SH B: Rabban Gamaliel recited [the Shema] on the first night of his marriage.**
- D. Said to him [his students], “Did our master not teach us that a bridegroom is exempt from the recitation of the Shema on the first night [of marriage]?”**
- E. He said to them, “I do not wish to suspend myself from accepting the yoke of the kingdom of heaven [even] for one hour.”**

The TWO Yokes of the Law:

- **The yoke of the kingdom**
- **The yoke of the commandments**



Said R. Joshua b. Qorha, “Why does [the passage of] *Shema* precede [that of] And it shall come to pass [if you keep my commandments]?”

I. “So that one may first accept upon himself the yoke of the kingdom of heaven and afterwards may accept the yoke of the commandments.”

J. “[Why does] And it shall come to pass [precede] And God said?”

K. “For And it shall come to pass is recited by both day and night.

L. “[But] And God said is recited only by day.”

Matt. 11:25, “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.’ ”

Matt. 11:28, “ ‘Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matt. 11:29, “ ‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matt. 11:30, “ ‘For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.’ ”

Acts 15:1, “And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’”

Acts 15:2, “Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.”

Acts 15:5, “But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.’”

Acts 15:6, “Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

Acts 15:7, “And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.’ ”

Acts 15:10, “ ‘Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?’ ”

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Mark 12:33, “ ‘And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ ”

“... is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

1 Sam. 15:22, “So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.’ ”