

Jesus Among The Sects

(Matthew 22:15-46)

- Introduction:
1. Sometimes it's easy to forget that Jesus was "God in the flesh" (Jn. 1:14).
 2. Consequently, the interactions people had with him was not just an interaction with a man, but with God.
 3. Thus, when we consider this fact, those who sought to argue with Jesus were in the unenviable position of trying to confound God.
 4. Job learned his lesson many years ago (Job 38-42), the religious sects of Jesus day needed to be reminded, and so might we, even today.

I. Jesus Among The Pharisees & Herodians

- A. The Pharisees were a very strict, legalistic sect of the Jews who elevated their own commandments to be equal and above God's commandments (Matthew 15:3-9).
- B. The Herodians were a political sect supporting the dynasty of the Herods, and were supporters of Rome, who allowed them to stay in power.
- C. The Pharisees and Herodians joined hands in trying to confound Jesus (22:15).
- D. Jesus not only answered their question, but turned the tables on them (22:17-21).
- E. His answer so impressed them, that they "marveled" and left him.

II. Jesus Among The Sadducees

- A. The Sadducees were another sect born about 100 years before Jesus. They were noted for not believing in the resurrection and life after death.
- B. So they were secularists, concerning themselves with this life only.
- C. They present a mocking scenario to Jesus that they surely thought he would not be able to handle, but he did (Matthew 22:32).
- D. Once again, the crowds were astonished by Jesus (Matthew 22:33).

III. The Pharisees Again

- A. (Matthew 22:32-40).
- B. Again they ask Jesus a question, "testing" him.
- C. Jesus again, answered perfectly (Matthew 22:37-40).

- Conclusion:
1. Just as Jesus quieted the sects of his day, so will he do to the sects of our day.
 - a. He will have an answer to those who won't surrender to his will.
 - b. He will have an answer to those who are more concerned about politics than truth.
 - c. He will have an answer to those who reject and argue with his revelation.
 2. Therefore, the wise thing to do is to learn you can't argue with God and win, so obey him and live in his favor.