

Message Notes

Mistaken Identity

Matthew 22:23-46, Pt. 75

Pastor Steve Leonard

July 2, 2006

Message Outline

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I. Jesus' Preserving Judgment (23-33)

A. Who are the Sadducees? (23)

B. What their question reveals. (24-28)

C. Jesus' response and what it tells us about them, Him and us. (29-33)

II. Jesus' Lavishing Grace (34-40)

A. Who are the Pharisees? (34-35)

B. What their question reveals. (36)

C. Jesus' response and what it tells us about them, Him and us. (37-40)

III. Jesus the Messiah (41-46)

A. Jesus' question and what it tells us about them, Him and us. (41-42a)

B. What their answer reveals. (42b)

C. Who is Messiah? (43-46)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 22:15-46 again. Compare and contrast Jesus and His opponents here. What do we learn about the opponents? What does Jesus reveal about Himself?
2. Drawing on the sermon, what part of the Bible did the Sadducees emphasize? Using Jesus' response, how did the Sadducees misunderstand the Scriptures? What did they not understand about the power of God?
3. The Pharisees question Jesus about the greatest commandment. How is this question a trap for Jesus? Why does He throw in this extra, second commandment that is "like it" in verse 39? How does Jesus' response instruct us about the way we read the Old Testament and even the whole Bible?
4. Read Psalm 110. Compare Psalm 110 and the current passage with Matthew 1:1, 20; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9. Why is it significant that David refers to the Messiah as "lord"? Some claim that Jesus never claimed to be anything more than a man. How could you answer that objection based on this passage?
5. Summarize what Jesus reveals about Himself in these three encounters with the Pharisees and the Sadducees. What is significant about each of these interactions in relation to the Gospel? In other words, what does chapter 22 reveal about who Jesus is?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. What are ways we misunderstand Scripture or the power of God today?
3. Do you relate more to the Sadducees and their denial of punishment and reward after death and less literal view of the Bible, or to the Pharisees and their literal reading of the Bible and belief in judgment? How does Jesus show Himself more gracious than the Sadducees and stricter than the Pharisees?
4. What does Jesus' response to the Pharisees (vv. 37-40) highlight about the nature of law-keeping from God's perspective? How do we go astray in applying this at times? Think of a particular relationship in which you have a hard time living out the law as it's presented here. What would it look like to live this out in that relationship more?
5. What's a characteristic of Jesus this passage reveals that is challenging to your own understanding of who Jesus is? How does the Gospel of Messiah Jesus both condemn you and promise deliverance at the same time?

What's Up with Growth Groups?

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace!

We believe that gathering in small groups of 6-12 people to study the Bible, pray for each other and care for each other is the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church.

While Growth Groups are on hiatus for the summer, they will resume again following the Fall Kick Off.

For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve.