

Dual Citizenship

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Lar - FP, Womens, Go Mobil, HS, Empowered, Emp Video.
- B. Slide8 Me - Sun Night of Prayer, next Sun.

II. Slide9 Intro: Dual Citizenship

- A. Slide10 Remember how a few days before Passover, *the lambs* would be *examined* to make sure they were not *blemished*. (Sheep Gate, N temple mnt) [from orig Passover, Ex12:5]
 1. Well, its a few days before Jesus' last Passover on earth & God the Father allows His Son, *The Passover Lamb*, to be *examined* for any *blemish*.
 2. Peter tells us we were redeemed *with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*. 1 Pet.1:19
 - a) w/o spot *inside* (in itself). w/o blemish i.e. *outside* (contracted by contact w/others).
 3. The examiners?...none other than *the religious party leaders* of that day.
 4. The examination?... 3 complicated questions.
 - a) Dr. Suess, *Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple*.
We'll see that here. *3 complicated questions, 3 simple answers*.
- B. Slide11 Outline: Pharisees & Herodians ask A Political Question: Pay taxes?
Some Sadducees ask A Hypothetical Question: Whose wife?
A Scribe asks The Real Question: #1 commandment?
Then Jesus asks A Personal Question: Who is the Christ?

III. Slide12 A POLITICAL QUESTION (15-22) Pay Taxes?

- A. Its hard to imagine Taxes being *controversial* :)
 1. This *Tribute Tax* were paid only by those conquered, *not by* Roman citizens.
 2. *Pharisees* – were strict separatist Jews, *totally opposed* to Roman rule.
 3. *Herodians* –were a Jewish political party, who *sympathized* with w/Rome.
 4. *Sadducees* –were a Jewish sect were more concerned with politics than religion, and worked hard to keep the peace by *agreeing & sympathizing* with the decisions of Rome.

- a) **Pharisees** (extreme **right** wingers). **Herodians/Sad** (extreme **left** wingers).
- B. **Entangle** – catch, to ensnare, *to take by hunting or fishing*.
- C. (16) **Listen to their flattery**.
- They call him **teacher** **but** have not intention of **learning** anything from Him.
 - Flattery** - Jesus wouldn't fall for it for a minute.
 - According to **Hindu law**, *lying is only justified in 2 cases: In saving a person's life, & in paying a compliment to a lady. :)*
 - Jesus surely didn't take these as **compliments** **but** only as **a set-up**.
- D. **Slide13** (19-21) **Denarius** – a silver coin used to pay the **Poll Tax** (Introduced by the Romans in 6ad; a constant reminder they were a **subject** people).
- E. **On this coin**: [note V = U]
- [obverse/front]** The image of **emperor Tiberius Caesar** & the abbrev inscription. **Ti[berivs] Caesar Divi Avg[vsti] F[ilivs] Avgvstvs**.
Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus.
 - [reverse/back]** His mother **Livia**. **PONTIF MAXIM Chief Priest**
 - To reveal their hypocrisy** Jesus ask **them** to produce one. (You are carrying one around. Tell me His name) [**Not** going to call him **Augustus** = **The revered One**. **Not** going to call him **Divi Filius: The Son of God**. **Not** going to call him **Tiberias**: He was such a wicked **Emperor**. **So** the most neutral...**Caesar**]
- F. Jesus was able to move the discussion from **politics** **to** **principle**.
- G. **Slide14 RENDER TO CAESAR**
- H. If this coin bears **his picture & name**, it must belong to **him**. **And** whatever belongs to him you should give back to him.
- Render** = give back, or pay back (a moral obligation).
 - He taught that taxes are a debt**. Give back to **Uncle Sam** **or** **Uncle Caesar**.
 - This strong word **render** then infers **taxes** being the **citizens' debt** to the government in return for services rendered.
- I. **Today this is still heralded as** “*one of the **single most influential political statements ever made in the history of the world.**”*

1. It was actually **decisive & determinative** in shaping **Western civilization**.
- J. What bears **Caesars image** belongs to him. What bears **God's image** belongs to Him.
 1. **Caesar's image** was on the coin. **God's image** is on man.
 2. This helps **order & prioritize** the believer's **allegiances** in this life.

K. **Slide15 RENDER TO GOD**

L. He reminds them of a **greater** responsibility. Our **1st allegiance** is to **God**.

M. Erasmus, *"Give back to God that which has the image & superscription of God...**the soul.**"*

N. *We bear His image*

1. Believers we all have been **minted** in heaven. **All humans** are made in the image of God. **We are God's coin**.
 2. 2 Cor.1:22 **He set his seal** of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts.
 3. **As I said last week**, even though man has **distorted** this image by **sin**, **YET** we still maintain the status.
- O. *But do we bear His signature on our hearts?*
1. **Slide16** Ancient wax seal. Owner would take His **ring** & press it into **hot wax**.
 2. **So the H.S. does with believers**. *He warms us, makes us impressionable, & then presses His image, His character into us.*
 3. **Now not only an "H"**(Human) impressed upon us; **but now** at salvation the H.S. has further pressed another **"H"** upon our souls (His). :)

IV. **Slide17 A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION (23-33) Whose Wife?**

A. (23) *Now the Sadducees turn.*

1. I believe they think they can **take** this **country bumpkin** from Galilee.
2. They thought they'd publicly show how ridiculous this idea of a **res** was.
3. **They didn't believe in:** *the existence of the soul, life after death, resurrection, final judgment, angels, or demons.* (Acts 23:8)

B. (24) 1st they site the **Levirate marriage custom** in Deut.25:5.

1. **Basically**, if a man dies childless, his brother was to marry the widow.
Then the 1st child would legally become the heir of the deceased father.
Thus the family line would not die out.
- C. (25-28) This was probably said sarcastically.
1. It seemed like a *perfect argument*, **as** most arguments are...that are based on ***hypothetical*** situations.
 2. *Resurrection is not the restoration of life as we know it; it is the entrance into a new life that is different.* Warren Wiersbe, pg.117
 3. See, they made the fundamental mistake of measuring the **life of heaven** by the **life of earth**. But things are **very different** there.
- D. (29) Jesus rebukes these proud sophisticated religionists.
1. They should have known both the **Scriptures** & the **Power** of God.
 2. They failed to notice **Moses** **did** teach on *life after death*. (vs.26; Ex.3:6)
- E. (30) **Like angels** – Jesus didn't say we would **become** angels **or** be like angels **in everything**.
1. We will be **sexless** like the angels. (i.e. marriage will not exist)
 - a) **If no death** in the afterlife, **then** no need for the *propagation* of the human race.
 2. Whatever has been good & valuable here on earth will be **enriched** in heaven.
 - a) Ps.16:11 **In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
 - b) *Slide18 In heaven there is no reduction of love. We will be ourselves at our ultimate best. We will be more capable of loving than ever before. We will be like Jesus.*
 3. It is always a mistake to **create heaven** in the image of earth.
- F. (31,32) The Sadducees demanded *scriptural proofs* for doctrines...**but** they held primarily only to **the books of Moses** as their religious authority.
1. So Jesus quoted from Exodus 3:6. (**Since** there was no **ch. & vs.**, He refers to it as a *the burning bush passage* Mrk12:26)
 2. **Key** – is in the words “**I am**” **not** “**I was**”. *I am the God of Abraham...*
 3. Origen, “*It is ridiculous for God to say that He is the God of men who have no existence.*”

G. He makes the application.

1. Their problem was that they had **no vital relationship w/God**, just a **dead ritual**.
2. When you've experienced the resurrection of your own **former dead spirit now alive**, it's easy to believe in the resurrection of **the body** later. *me*

V. Slide19 **THE REAL QUESTION (34-40) #1 commandment?**

A. (36) **Which** – *of what kind is the 1st commandment of all?*

1. Slide20 The rabbis divided the **613** precepts of the law (**248** commands & **365** prohibitions) into **weighty & light**. **Which command was more important?**
2. This came from *a Scribal mind game of the day* of trying to reduce their religion to **a single axiom**.
 - a) **As for example:** when **Rabbi Hillel** was promised by a Gentile that he would **convert** if Hillel could give him *the whole Law while he stood on one foot*.
 - b) Hillel answered w/a version of the Golden rule: **“What you yourself hate, do not do to your neighbor this is the whole law – the rest is commentary. Go & learn it.”**
 - c) This is the kind of answer this Scribe was looking for from this brilliant Jesus.

B. (37-31) **Jesus' reply was the Shema** (Deut.6:4,5) which every pious Jew repeated twice a day.

1. It 1st pointed to **the Unity of Deity**, **The Lord our God is one Lord**; & then to **man's chief obligation**, **to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, & strength** (or, w/all's one being)
 - a) Everything devoted to loving God. *It does not take much of a man to be a believer, but it takes all there is of him.*
2. Slide21a **Lenin** implementer of Communism in the Soviet Union, while meeting w/a small group of people in London early 1900's set down these **4 Totals**:

[1] Total acceptance of the cause **[2]** Total dedication to the cause
[3] Total discipline in the cause **[4]** Total action for the cause.

 - a) Slide21b What was **terrible** for the cause of **communism**; is **beautiful** to the cause of **Christianity**.
3. **So exactly how do you Love God this way?** Press *meaning* into virtually every action of your day. See not only *meaning* but also *purpose* in your labor.

- a) Flip your pancakes to the glory of God. Drive your car like you're chauffeuring Jesus. Maintain God's presence within, by the communion of your heart with Him. Don't make your life complicated or religious. Be authentic, be sincere, be the regenerated you...as you are being *conformed into His image*.
- C. For good measure he added a **2nd one**, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
1. A **total** love for God & a **sensitive** love for others **is** the essence of a life that *pleases God*.
- D. In Marks gospel, the Scribe was favorably impressed. (Mark12:32-34)
1. He was beginning to get a deeper spiritual understanding of the faith he thought he understood.
 2. He was a thinking man, an honest man. He was not a coward. He faced head-on the implications that the love of God is the highest priority.
- E. (Mrk12:34) He was not far from the kingdom of heaven? – means he's facing truth honestly & is not interested in defending a *party line* or even *personal prejudice*.
1. His **attitude** was right & his **heart** was open.
 2. Jesus words were *deliberately ambiguous* to make him think further, & hopefully turn **interest** into **commitment**, **admiration** into **discipleship**.
- a) The great danger for this person is that though they are **not far from the kingdom**, they are **not in it**. Almost saved is *altogether lost*.
- (1) It's the man who was *almost able* to reach & grab the **life preserver**...but drowned instead.
 - (2) It is being **in** the kingdom that saves the soul, **not** being *near* the it.

VI. Slide22 **A PERSONAL QUESTION (41-46)** *Who is the Christ?*

- A. Jesus' turns the tables and questions them.
- B. Watch **Logic on Fire**. You don't hear Jesus give a *just believe* teaching here. **Instead**, it is *come let us reason together*.
- C. Jesus challenges them to think again...
1. He quotes from **Ps.110** (the Psalm most frequently quoted in the NT).
 2. He steps on their *self-proclaimed superiority* of the Scriptures.

3. How can Messiah be both David's **son** (& therefore inferior) & also David's **Lord** (& therefore superior)?
4. In Jesus' day a **descendant** was always inferior to an ancestor.
5. How can **Christ** be both David's **Lord** & his **descendant**?
 - a) **A:** Only a **Christ** who is both fully human & fully Divine can be both Lord & descendant.
 - b) **Paul** said it plainly, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was **born of the seed of David** according to the flesh, **and** declared to be **the Son of God with power**. Rom.1:3
6. **Slide23** Poem: If **Christ** is not **divine**, Go seal again the tomb;
 Take down the cross, Redemption's **sign**,
 Quench all the stars of hope that **shine**,
And let us turn & travel **on**
 Across the night that knows no **dawn**. *Walter A. Maier*

D. **Personal question**...what do **you** think about the Christ?