

Galilean Tea Party

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Children @ risk - today 3-5pm. Be discussing JM3. Preparing ribbons for WRAP week. Prob watch the movie *Not Today* while tying ribbons.
- B. Slide#2 Ann Graham Lotz Simulcast - Next Sun night, Sept.22, 6-8pm. Live simulcast. Her message & new book, "*Wounded By God's People*" (story of Hagar). Childcare nursery-4th grade.
- C. Slide#3 First Responders Belize, Needs List - drop off next Sun @ doughnut sales area as the Belize team manning doughnut sales. Or, during week, drop off w/Rick @ church.
- D. Slide#4 40 Days for life: Interview w/Bekah Krouse.
 1. What is "40 days for life"? - What are the results of "40 Days for Life"?
 2. I like the Prayer vigil guidelines? - So how should they sign up for this?
 - a) [September 25th-November 3rd]

II. Intro:

- A. Slide#5 Galilean Tea Party
- B. Slide#6 Dr. Suess said, *Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.*
 1. We'll see that lived out here, **times 3.** 3 complicated questions, 3 simple answers.
- C. Slide#7 Outline: Pharisees & Herodians ask A Political Question; Pay taxes?
Some Sadducees ask A Hypothetical Question; Whose wife?
A Scribe asks ask The Real Question; #1 commandment?

III. Slide#8 A POLITICAL QUESTION (13-17)

- A. Slide#9 Its hard to imagine Taxes being *controversial* :)
 1. Slide#10,11 In the US we know unfair taxation & revolution. The *Boston Tea Party* was a riot against unfair taxation & became the catalyst of the revolution from Great Britain.
 2. This **Tribute Tax** were paid only by those conquered, not by Roman citizens.
 3. Now Im not jumping in to any conspiracy theories here...but just for an application: What if we got so indebted to the Chinese that they issued a Tribute Tax against us? Each year it was due we'd feel it digging in, not fair, we've lost our independence.
 - a) Here was a *Galilean Tea Party* of sorts going on. *Feel the tension.*
 4. Pharisees – were a strict separatist Jews, *totally opposed* to Roman rule.
 5. Herodians –were a Jewish political party who *sympathized* with w/Rome.
 - a) Pharisees (extreme right wingers); Herodians (extreme left wingers).
- B. Catch – to take by hunting or fishing.
- C. (14) Listen to their flattery.

1. They call him *teacher* but have not intention of **learning** anything from Him.
- D. Slide#12 (15-17) **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]
1. [obverse/front] The image of emperor Tiberius Caesar & the abbreviated inscription Ti[berivs] Caesar Divi Avg[vsti] F[ilivs] Avgvstvs. *Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus.*
 2. [reverse/back] His mother Livia. **PONTIF MAXIM** *Chief Priest*
 3. 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. Slide#13 **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.
1. **Render** = give back, or pay back (a moral obligation).
 2. He taught that taxes are a **debt**. Give back to **Uncle Sam** or **Uncle Caesar**.
 3. This strong word *render* then infers **taxes** being the citizens' debt to the government in return for services performed.
- 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 **decisive & determinative** in shaping Western civilization.
 2. It **orders & prioritizes** the believer's *allegiances* in this life.
- J. What bears **Caesars image** belongs to him. What bears **God's image** belongs to Him.
- K. Slide#14 **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**.”
1. Eccl 12:7 **Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.**
- N. Slide#15a *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.
- O. Slide#15b *But do we bear His signature on our hearts?*

1. **Ancient wax seal.** Owner would take His ring & press it into the 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. **Slide#15c** Now not only an “H”(human) impressed upon us; **but now** at salvation the H.S. has further pressed upon our souls a 2nd “H”(His) :)

IV. Slide#16 **A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION (18-27)**

- A. (18) **Now the Sadducees turn.** (only place in Mark they're mentioned)
 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 **resurrection** 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. (19) 1st they cite 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. (20-23) **This was probably said sarcastically.**
 1. It seemed like a *perfect argument*, **as** most arguments are...that are based on **hypothetical** situations.
 2. **Slide#17** “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. (24) **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. (25) **Like angels** – Jesus didn't say we would **become** angels **or** be like angels **in everything**.
 1. We will only 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) *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. (26) **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 bush passage*)
 2. **Key** – is in the words “I am” **not** “I was”. *I am the God of Abraham...*
 3. **Slide#18** Origen, “It is ridiculous for God to say that He is the God of men who have **no existence.**”
 - a) Another example would be **Enoch**, who was taken from life to life.
 4. Paul said, **So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.**
- G. (27) **He makes the application.**
1. Their problem was that they had **no vital relationship w/God**, just a **dead ritual**.
 2. When you experience **the resurrection power in your own life**, you have no difficulty in **believing the resurrection** of the dead.
 3. **Can one rule out the supernatural elements of the Christian faith & still call it the Christian faith? (No! Not Res.)**

V. **Slide#19 THE REAL QUESTION (28-34)**

- A. (28) **Which** – “*of what kind*” is the **1st commandment of all?**
1. **Slide#20,21** 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. (29-31) **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. **Slide#22a** Lenin the implementer of Communism in the Soviet Union, while meeting with a small group of people in London in the early 1900's set down these four “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) **Slide#22b** What was **terrible** for the cause of **communism**; is **beautiful** to the cause of Christianity.
3. (Spurg) "We must give the Lord our love, or that love will go somewhere else. We are so created that we must love something or other. **If *The Ever-Blessed One* does not win our love; *the world, the flesh, or the devil* will gain it."**
4. **So exactly how do you Love God this way?**
Slide#23 Brother Lawrence was a cook in a monastery. He learned to press meaning into virtually every action of his day. Note his capacity to see not only meaning but also purpose in his labor:
 "I turn my little omelette in the pan for the love of God. When it is finished, if I have nothing to do, I prostrate myself on the ground and worship my God, who gave me this grace to make it, after which I arise happier than a king. When I can do nothing else, it is enough to have picked up a straw for the love of God. People look for ways of learning how to love God. They hope to attain it by I know not how many different practices. They take much trouble to abide in His presence by varied means. Is it not a shorter and more direct way to **do everything** for the love of God, to make use of **all the tasks** one's lot in life demands to show him that love, and to **maintain his presence within** by the communion of our heart with his? **There is nothing complicated about it.** One has only to turn to it honestly and simply.
- C. **Slide#24blank** For good measure he added a **2nd one**, **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**
1. Paul reiterated this, **...he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** Rom.13:8
 2. **A total love for God & a sensitive love for others** is the essence of a life that pleases God.
- D. (32,33) **The Scribe** was favorably impressed.
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. **Slide#25** (34) **Not far from?** – 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**.
- F. **The great danger for this person is that though they are not far from the kingdom, they are not in it.**
1. **Slide#26** It's the man who was **almost able** to reach & grab the **life preserver...but** drowned instead.
 2. **Almost saved is altogether lost. Think of how many souls in hell were "almost saved"**

3. It is being **in** the kingdom that saves the soul, **not** being **near** the kingdom.
- G. Are you **near** to the kingdom of God but **not in**? One step makes the difference.
1. Like **the last step** from the dock & into a boat.
 2. Like **the final step** of boarding an airplane.
 - a) Slide#27,28 Which begs the *age-old* question: Are you going to be found...
“*sittin* on the dock of the bay” or “*leavin* on a jet plane?” :)