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.
   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]


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 press 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 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. (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":
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?” :)
