

THE GREAT RELIGIOUS DEBATE

Matthew 22:15-46

ROUND ONE – THE HERODIANS TAKE ON JESUS

Matthew 22:15-22 (continued from last Sunday)

Introduction: In their attempt to ensnare Jesus in His words the Herodians have asked Him a very well thought out question – “*Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?*” This same event is also recorded in Mark’s and Luke’s Gospel. It is obvious that our Lord wanted His answer to this question recorded for the benefit of successive generations. In the immediate context Jesus’ answer was an incredibly wise escape from a very cleverly laid trap. Jesus answers their question knowing of the malicious purpose behind it. But He also knew that the same question, in one form or another, would also be asked humbly and honestly by His people down through the ages to this present day. The short answer Jesus gave to His enemies on that day in the Temple has meaning for us today. For us living in 2018 His answer goes far beyond being honest on our tax returns in April, and putting money in the offering plate here on Sunday morning. “What is Caesar’s anyway?” - far more important – “What is God’s, and are we giving to Him what is His due?”

A. ROUND ONE – THE HERODIANS TAKE ON JESUS – Matthew 22:15-22

1. THE HERODIANS’ UNLIKELY ALLIANCE – v. 15

2. THE HERODIANS’ DISINGENUOUS REMARKS – v. 16

3. THE HERODIANS’ CLEVER QUESTION – v. 17

4. THE LORD’S PERCEPTIVE _____ – vv. 18-21

A. IT WAS PERSONALLY _____ – v. 18

5. THE HERODIANS' QUICK _____ - v 22

CONCLUSION: