

**THE GREAT RELIGIOUS DEBATE  
THE NEVER JESUS MOVEMENT**

Matthew 22:15-46

**ROUND THREE – THE PHARISEES TAKE ON JESUS**

Matthew 22:34-40

**Introduction:** Romans 6:14 tells us that we “*are not under Law but under grace.*” Seeing as both Law and Grace are from God, both are perfect – there is no conflict between the two. Both seek the same end – that the perfect will of God might be done on earth as it is in Heaven. The trouble with Law is that it is powerless. It can tell us what to do but it does not tell us how to do it: it commands obedience but it cannot produce obedience: it can say, “Live”, but it is powerless to make alive - “*For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law*”. There is absolutely nothing wrong with Law – the problem is with us. “*The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good*” (Galatians 3:21), but we are not, and never can be unless God makes us “holy, just, and good” – and this is exactly what Grace does. Grace bestows what the Law requires. The Law of God demands a perfect righteousness, - Grace puts that perfect righteousness upon the believer: “*...you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us ... righteousness ...*” (1 Corinthians 1:30). Law would make the impartation of Life the result of doing: Grace imparts life to the lawbreaker in response to faith in the finished work of Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. In the fullness and power of Christ’s life in the believer the believer is now set free to do God’s will from the heart. Just as the Law convicts of sin so too the perfect Life of Jesus brought conviction to the religionists of His day, and their sinful hearts were exposed, and so the great religious debate continues to this very day.

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

**B. ROUND TWO – THE SADDUCEES TAKE ON JESUS** – Matthew 22:23-33

**C. ROUND THREE – THE PHARISEES TAKE ON JESUS** – Matthew 22:34-40

**1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ GATHERING** – 22:34-35

**2. THE \_\_\_\_\_ QUESTION** – 22:36

**3. THE \_\_\_\_\_ ANSWER – 22:37-40**

**A. PART ONE – v. 37-38**

**B. PART TWO – v. 39**

**4. THE \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPLE – v. 40**