



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 22
- Revelation 19:7-9
- Hebrews 10:26-29

MIC DROP

- Arranged Marriage
- Interrogation
- Silencing the Detractors

A lot has happened to bring us to this point. I suppose that even the world itself could not contain enough books to account for the life of Y'shua, His significant contribution to mankind and His impact on human history. But there was a moment when He finally quieted His detractors once and for all—the ones who would dare question Him openly. He made a public spectacle of them, silencing all those who craved to use His words as an indictment against Him with the multitudes watching.

Of course we know what is coming and, although, never again would they attempt to entrap Him in public with questions so easily smacked aside, exposing the true motives of His interrogators, they will soon descend into treachery and blatant deception, debased minds propagating abject lies leading to spiritual and moral bankruptcy. After this, they will need someone on the inside to

betray Him because no one on the outside is a match for His brilliance, grace and meekness. Oh, they will keep coming at Him just to procure the indictment and conviction of an innocent Man, without regard for legal decorum or truth. They simply won't be able to ever again question Him publicly—lest they also be exposed publicly.

We might say there were three defining moments in Y'shua's ministry before His execution and resurrection. His baptism in the Jordan: The kingdom of heaven is at hand; Behold! The Lamb of God; this is My beloved Son! Then His triumphal entry into Jerusalem: Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! And His choice in the garden to remain a bondservant: not My will but Your will be done, the choice that allowed Him to keep His bride for all eternity. That's us!

But, in order to ensure His private betrayal, He had to publicly dismantle His detractors, every last one of them questioned and found wanting. No, these religious leaders will not feel convicted, nor will they reverse course and repent. They are willing to pave the way to their own destruction with deception and by the shedding of innocent blood, scarlet droplets that will ultimately punctate their hard hearts and seal their fates. What about you? Do your words indict Him or betray Him? Oh, it's not Him I am concerned for, it's you—because if you insist, His words will leave you speechless.

PROPHETIC SEED:

“He said to them, **“How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’** saying: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’? **If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”**” Matthew 22:43-45 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.” Matthew 22:46 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week in [Going on the Offensive](#) Y'shua's turned up the heat. His lessons and parables are becoming even more convicting, and it seems He is even more set on exposing religious leaders for their hypocrisy. And this week He continues His onslaught!

He rode into town and accepted praise; turned over tables and chairs in the Temple; chased out the merchants and bankers; and accepted praise again—the second time really made the religious elite angry. He cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit and it died; and then He refused to answer questions from the religious leaders,

instead, backing them into a corner by asking them a question they could not answer, lest they affirm John the Baptist and by extension Y'shua Himself.

Then He told a story about two sons, one who pretended to love his father and the other who really did. His message pointed to the leaders present as the pretenders in the story. Gentle Jesus had given way to a more in-your-face Jesus.

Finally He likened the religious leaders of the day to business operators who would kill the son of the business owner just to take his inheritance. He warned them that they would never get away with rejecting and killing THE SON! The religious leaders got the impression that Y'shua was talking about them. He was!

This week we see the parable of the wedding feast and all the original invitees who refuse to attend. As a result, new guests are invited, and out of all those who decide to come, some are turned away because they are ill-prepared. Then the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, and Scribes line up to question Y'shua, all with intentions to entrap Him. They are all unsuccessful.

Now it's Y'shua's turn. He poses a very provocative question to the Pharisees and Scribes. Since you all know that the coming Messiah is the called the Son of David, why does the Spirit inspire David to call the coming Messiah "Lord"?

Matthew 22

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

1. The kingdom of heaven is like...
 - (a) A certain king whose son is promised in an arranged marriage and it's time for the wedding.
 - (b) He sends his servants to gather those who were invited.
 - (c) The original invitees are not willing to attend.
2. He sends his servants out again with additional details...
 - (a) They describe the expensive dinner and how it is ready—so please come now.
3. Those invited don't take the invitation seriously...
 - (a) Some go back to farming.
 - (b) Others go back to business as usual.
 - (c) And some are not only aloof, but downright wicked and they kill the king's servants who offered the invitation.
 - (d) The king retaliates by destroying the murderers and burning their city.
4. It's time for a new guest list...
 - (a) The wedding is ready but, unfortunately, the original limited guest list rejected the offer.
 - (b) They were obviously not worth inviting.
 - (c) Expand your search to an unlimited area and invite anyone who will attend, the king commands.

5. His servants expanded their search and filled the wedding hall with every type of guest—some ready to be there, some totally unprepared.
 - (a) When king arrived to greet his new guests, he finds a man with no wedding garment.
 - (b) “How did you get into the wedding without being prepared?” the king inquires. The man has no answer.
6. In other words, do you know how to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb?
 - (a) No! Then get out; you can’t stay!
 - (b) Your destination is a dark place, not this wedding!
 - (c) You see, many are called to the wedding, but few can stay.

The Pharisees: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?

7. The Pharisees want to trick Y’shua into saying something they can then indict Him on later.
8. The students of the Pharisees team up with the Herodians and use flattery to entice Y’shua into answering the question.
9. Flattery
 - (a) We know that You are completely honest...
 - (b) And we know You correctly interpret God’s word...
 - (c) And we know You are never impressed by, nor swayed by man’s influence or opinion.
10. So, that being said...here is our question:

(a) Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?

11. However, for the same reasons they just flattered Him, Y'shua sees right through their schemes, manipulation, and malicious intent, and He does what He always does when asked questions intended to entrap Him. He asks a question of His own.

(a) "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?

12. Y'shua goes on to teach how He is simply not part of, nor interested in, the world's system and economy by identifying the type of money used to pay taxes, and the system it belongs to. He does so while simultaneously contrasting it to God's system and economy.

13. The Pharisees are left speechless and must slink away having gathered ZERO evidence against Him.

The Sadducees: Whose wife of the seven will she be?

14. Now it's the Sadducees' turn and their attempt to trap Y'shua...

(a) They reference the law that instructs a man to marry his deceased brother's wife if he has died without a son, so she can bear a son to carry her dead husband's name.

(b) They further complicate the matter by imagining that this could happen seven times with the same women and seven different brothers, all who die with no son.

(c) Last of all, the woman dies with no son having been born to any of her seven husbands.

15. The Sadducees' question: Whose wife is she in the resurrection?
- (a) First you must realize that this sect does not even believe in a resurrection and Y'shua is fully aware of their doctrine.
16. Then Y'shua dismantles the premise of their entire question.
- (a) Your errors are generated because you don't know God's word nor His grace.
 - (b) Your post-resurrection existence does not include earthly marriage.
 - (c) Plus, God is the God of the living, not the God of the dead!
17. The Sadducees (like the Pharisees) and the people watching walk away astonished and in silence, also having gathered ZERO evidence against Him.

The Scribes: Which is the great commandment in the law?

18. Now the Pharisees step up for another shot at Him, having heard that the Sadducees attempt also fell flat. And they bring out a biblical law expert—a Scribe.
19. The biblical lawyer gives Him a one question test:
- (a) First he admits Y'shua is a teacher—flattery **to set Him up!**
 - (b) Then he attempts to put Him on the spot—**knock Him down!**
 - (c) “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”
20. Answer: Y'shua gives two! Every commandment, including all the laws elaborated upon in the writings of the Prophets, will fit under either of these two categories:

- (a) **The First...Love God:** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- (b) **The Second...Love one another:** “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Y’shua: What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?

21. Then, while the Pharisees were still gathered together, their offensive barrage falling flat, and Y’shua recognizing they are completely “defenseless,” asks a question of His own.

- (a) In your theological studies, and since you have a law expert present to help you get the answer right... “Whose Son is the anointed one that you are expecting to come as your Messiah?”
- (b) Answer: He’s “The Son of David” of course—we all know that!

22. “Well, if He is David’s son,” Y’shua asks, “Why does the spirit inspire David to call Him Lord?”

- (a) No one can answer His questions.
- (b) This is the last time anyone will attempt to entrap Y’shua by questioning Him publicly.

ARRANGED MARRIAGE

1. Who will accept the invitation?

A. The focus in on the guests!

(1) The Parable of the Wedding Feast

(a) How did you get in here without a wedding garment?

1. “And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king **who arranged a marriage for his son**, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.” ’ But **they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.** Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and **as many as you find, invite to the**

wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and **gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good.** And **the wedding hall was filled with guests.** "But when **the king** came in to see the guests, he **saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** So he said to him, 'Friend, **how did you come in here without a wedding garment?**' And **he was speechless.** Then the king said to the servants, '**Bind him hand and foot,** take him away, and **cast him into outer darkness;** there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**"For many are called, but few are chosen."**" Matthew 22:1-14 NKJV

(2) The Parable of the Wedding Feast explained...

(a) Y'shua gives yet another parable: the kingdom of heaven is like...

1. A king's son is promised in an arranged marriage and it's time for the wedding.

a) Hint: we are in an arranged marriage as the betrothed bride of Christ!

1) *"And if **I go and prepare a place for you,** I will come again and receive you to Myself; **that where I am, there you may be also.**"* John 14:3 NKJV

2) *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be **joined to his wife**, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but **I speak concerning Christ and the church.**”*
Ephesians 5:31-32 NKJV

2. He sends servants to gather those who were invited.
a) Notice there is no mention of the bride for the son.
All the emphasis is on the guests!

3. The original invitees are not willing to attend.
a) They seem to have no interest in the “Son’s wedding.” They show no respect for the son, much like we saw when the tenants murdered the son in *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants* in Matthew 21:33-46. After that parable, the religious leaders knew that Y’shua was referring to them as those who would disregard “the Son!”

1) *“Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, **they perceived that He was speaking of them.** But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.”* Matthew 21:45-46 NKJV

2) See... [Going on the Offensive](#)

(b) He sends servants a second time with additional details!

1. They describe the expensive dinner and how it is ready—so please come now.
 - a) Those invited don't take the invitation seriously...
 - 1) Some go back to farming.
 - 2) Others go back to business as usual.
 - 3) And some are not only aloof, but downright wicked and they kill the king's servants who offered the invitation. (Similar to how the tenants murdered the son in *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants*).
 - 4) The king retaliates by destroying the murderers and burning their city.

(c) Luke offered another take on this parable with the same theme, but with a few different perspectives. (See *The Parable of the Great Banquet* in Luke 14:15-24.) Luke emphasized the dangers of making excuses.

1. "But they all with one accord **began to make excuses**. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have

married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'" Luke
14:18-20 NKJV

a) As opposed to the *Wedding Invite Parable* which displayed some who were invited as downright wicked, this version shows the equal danger of **filling your life with busyness and excuses** as for why they could not accept the invitation.

b) See: [Let the Dead Bury the Dead](#)

(d) It's time for a new guest list...

1. The wedding is ready but, unfortunately, the original guests rejected the offer.
2. In other words, the groom is ready, but the bride has other things to do!
3. They were obviously not worth inviting.
4. "Expand your search to an unlimited area and invite anyone who will attend," the king commands.

(3) This is all yet another convicting message that cuts the religious leaders to the core. As we saw in...

(a) *The Parable of the Two Sons* in Matthew 21:28-32, and,

(b) *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants* in Matthew 21:33-46...

(c) ...it is clearly the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Herodians that he is addressing as those who will MISS

THE WEDDING! They are and will continue to REJECT HIS invitation.

(4) Sending out a new invitation is precisely what we see in Romans 10 and 11! (Read Romans 10:9-21 & 11:1-36)

(a) You have to send out servants with new invitations...

1. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? **And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? ...**" Romans 10:14-15 NKJV

(b) Invite everyone—even those who don't expect an invitation...

1. "But Isaiah is very bold and says: **"I was found by those who did not seek Me;** I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.'" Romans 10:20 NKJV

(c) The original invitees will not get to share in the marriage supper, but others who were not originally invited will!

1. "What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; **but the elect have obtained it,** and the rest were blinded." Romans 11:7 NKJV

(d) It was all necessary, otherwise those unexpected guests would have never had a chance to be invited. Plus,

some of the original invites will eventually find their way to their seats!

1. “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, **that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**” Romans 11:25 NKJV

(e) So, in the parable, the servants expanded their search and filled the wedding hall with every type of guest—some bad and some good, some who should not really be there and some who should.

1. When the king arrived to greet his new guests, he finds a man with no wedding garment.
2. How did you get into the wedding without being prepared (properly dressed)?
3. The man has no answer. He remains speechless!
 - a) In other words, do you know how to be dressed to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb? No! Then get out; you can’t stay!
4. Proper dress code...adorned in fine linen which equates to righteousness.
 - a) “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife**

has made herself ready." And to her it was granted **to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

Then he said to me, "Write: '**Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God.'" Revelation 19:7-9 NKJV

- b) "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** ...Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, **"Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."**" Revelation 21:1-2, 9 NKJV

- 1) See [New Wineskins II](#)
- 2) You better have the proper clothes on when you show up for the wedding.
- 3) And there is only one way to be dressed appropriately!

5. We are only made righteous (dressed properly) in Christ and from then on we are to practice that righteousness (practice wearing those clothes) .
- a) “For **Christ is** the end [goal] of the law for **righteousness to everyone who believes.**” Romans 10:4 NKJV
 - b) “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God** in Him.” II Corinthians 5:21 NKJV
 - c) “Little children, let no one deceive you. **He who practices righteousness is righteous,** just as He is righteous.” I John 3:7 NKJV
 - d) “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly **desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, **not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also

has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.” II

Corinthians 5:1-5 NKJV

6. There is a different banquet for those without the proper dress code—**the outer darkness dinner party!**
 - a) Many are called to the wedding, but few can stay.
 - b) This is the same idea that ended the *Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard* as well.
 - c) Many are called to the vineyard—few really appreciate the opportunity (Matthew 20:16)
 - d) See: [Dilating the Pupils](#)

INTERROGATION

2. Now we enter a series of provocative questions...

A. From Pharisees: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?

(1) They marveled!

(a) Beware of flattery followed by questions!

1. **“Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk.** And they sent to Him their **disciples with the Herodians**, saying, “Teacher, we know that **You are true**, and **teach the way of God in truth**; **nor do You care about anyone**, for **You do not regard the person of men**. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? **Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar**,

or not?" **But Jesus perceived their wickedness,** and said, **"Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money."** So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, **"Whose image and inscription is this?"** They said to Him, **"Caesar's."** And He said to them, **"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way."Matthew 22:15-22 NKJV

- (2) The Pharisees ask: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?
 - (a) The Pharisees want to trick Y'shua into saying something they can later use to indict Him.
 - (b) The students of the Pharisees team up with the Herodians and use flattery to entice Y'shua into answering the question.
 - 1. Flattery
 - a) We know that You are completely honest...
 - b) And we know You correctly interpret God's word...
 - c) And we know You are never impressed by nor swayed by man's influence or opinion.
 - 1) And now that you are buttered up...we have a question for you!

2) Pharisees team up with the Herodians...

(c) About the Herodians

1. At the time of Christ, certain groups held positions of authority and power over the people—the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the Sadducees.
2. The Sanhedrin was the religious court (a council of seventy Pharisees and Sadducees who made all the legal decisions for the Jews).
3. The Scribes were the biblical lawyers.
4. Each of these groups held power in either religious or political matters.
5. The Herodians held political power as they were the party that supported King Herod Antipas, the Roman Empire's ruler (4 B.C. to A.D. 39), over much of the land the Jews occupied.
6. The Herodians favored submitting to the Herods, and therefore to Rome, for political expediency.
7. In the minds of the Pharisees, the Herodians' political views compromised Jewish aspirations for independence, making it difficult for the Herodians and Pharisees to unite and agree on anything...well, except this one thing!

(d) They both opposed Y'shua so they joined efforts to achieve their common goal to get rid of Him—*"The enemy of my enemy is my friend!"*

1. Herod himself wanted Jesus dead

a) *"On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, **for Herod wants to kill You.**"*" Luke 13:31 NKJV

2. The Pharisees had already hatched plots against Jesus

a) *"And one of them, **Caiaphas, being high priest** that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. **Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.**"*

John 11:49-53 NKJV

3. The first appearance of the Herodians in Scripture...

a) *"And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. So they*

*watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so **that they might accuse Him.** And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. **Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.**" Mark 3:1-6 NKJV*

4. And then they again appear here in Matthew 22:16.
 - a) The Herodians joined with the Pharisees to challenge Jesus, to see if they could trap Him in His words by a trick question.
 - b) *"The enemy of my enemy is my friend!"*
- (e) Here is our question:
 1. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?
 - a) For all the reasons for which they just flattered Him, Y'shua sees right through their schemes,

manipulation, and malicious intent and He does what He always does when asked a question intended to entrap Him. He asks His own question.

- 1) “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?
- (f) Then, Y’shua shows them how He is simply not part of nor interested in the world’s system or economy by identifying the type of money used to pay taxes, and the system it belongs to, while contrasting it to God’s system and economy.
 1. The Pharisees and Herodians are left speechless and must slink away having gathered ZERO evidence against Him
 2. Show Me the money!
 - a) Show Me the what money is used to pay taxes.
 - b) The money depicts Caesar’s image and it’s inscription shows that its purpose and utility is for transactions and commerce in the Roman system.
 - c) When you operate in that system, use their means of exchange.
 - d) Much like when we travel out of our own country, we must obtain the local currency of our

destination country, if we intend to make any transactions in that foreign nation.

- (g) Two Worlds Two Kingdoms: when you are transacting business with God in His Kingdom economy, Roman money has NO VALUE.

1. God's Kingdom Economy

- a) It's an upside down economy

- 1) "...For many are called, but few chosen."

Matthew 20:16 NKJV

- b) Reap without sowing...

- 1) ""Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, **reaping where you have not sown**, and gathering where you have not scattered seed."

Matthew 25:24 NKJV

- c) Seek first the kingdom and don't worry about earthly things!

- 1) ""**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21
NKJV

- 2) ""Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **For after all these things the Gentiles seek.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV

d) Y'shua operates in God's kingdom, not this world!

- 1) "They are not of the world, **just as I am not of the world.**" John 17:16 NKJV

e) This world is not His kingdom...

- 1) "Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; **but now My kingdom is not from here.**" John 18:36 NKJV

f) Do not love the world...

- 1) "**Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15 NKJV

B. From Sadducees: Whose wife of the seven will she be?

(1) They were astonished!

(a) You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God!

1. “The same day the Sadducees, **who say there is no resurrection**, came to Him and asked Him, saying: “Teacher, **Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.** Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, **whose wife of the seven will she be?** For they all had her.” Jesus answered and said to them, “**You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage,** but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**”

And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.” Matthew 22:23-33 NKJV

(2) The Sadducees ask: Whose wife of the seven will she be?

(a) Now it’s the Sadducees’ turn and this is how they attempt to trap Y’shua...

1. They reference the law that instructs a man to marry his deceased brother’s wife if he has died without a son, so she can bear a son to carry her dead husband’s name.

a) They are referencing the Law of the Levirate marriage...

1) ““If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; **her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother** to her. And it shall be that **the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother**, that **his name may not be blotted out of Israel.**”

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 NKJV

(b) Then they complicate the matter by imagining that this could happen seven times with the same woman and seven different brothers, all who die with no son.

1. You can see this law in action with Judah and his sons!

a) “Then **Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn**, and her name was **Tamar**. But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, **and the Lord killed him**. And **Judah said to Onan, “Go in to your brother’s wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother.”** But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother’s wife, that **he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother**. And the thing which he did **displeased the Lord; therefore He killed him also.**” Genesis 38:6-10 NKJV

1) You can read about the rest of the drama in Genesis 38.

2) Judah’s third son Shelah is too young to marry Tamar right away, so Judah tells her to stay single until he is old enough.

- 3) But really Judah does not want to give his third son in fear of his life.
2. In a sense, you can also see this law in action between King David and Uriah after David had Uriah killed to cover up his adulterous affair with Uriah's wife Bathsheba.
 - a) (Read II Samuel 11) Uriah died without a son who would preserve his name. As such His name would have been blotted out of history.
 - b) Except for the supernatural hand of God who preserved Uriah's name in the lineage of Y'shua the Messiah... *"and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her **who had been the wife of Uriah.**"* Matthew 1:6 NKJV
 - c) Notice how Matthew inserts Uriah's name as the "sonless" deceased husband, as opposed to Bathsheba's name as Solomon's mother.
 - d) And Solomon was not even the child who was fathered in the affair. That child died... *"However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you **shall surely die.**"* II Samuel 12:14 NKJV (Read II Samuel 12:14-23)

- e) See: [Best Supporting Actor](#) for more details on how David was supernaturally caused to fulfill the Law of the Levirate Marriage for Uriah.
- (c) Last of all, in the story the Sadducees are telling, the woman dies before any son had been born to any of her seven husbands.
- (d) The Sadducees question: Whose wife is she in the resurrection?
 - 1. Mind you, this whole “what will happen in the resurrection thing” is a poor strategy to use to fool Y’shua, as the Sadducees don’t even believe in a resurrection and He is well aware of their position.
 - 2. It would be like me asking a pharmaceutical “expert” which of the Covid Vaccines would be better for me to take, when they already know that my position on vaccines is that they are all harmful and that I would never take any vaccine.
 - a) And much like the Herodians and Pharisee have their “inter-sect” impasses on religious and political views, so do the Sadducees and Pharisees
 - b) Paul, **who was a Pharisee**, understood the resurrection. If there is no resurrection, then your faith is in vain.

- 1) “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, **how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** But **if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.** And **if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.** Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. **For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile;** you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.” I Corinthians 15:12-19 NKJV

(e) Then Y’shua dismantles the premise of their entire question.

1. Your errors are generated because you don’t know God’s word nor His grace.
2. Your post-resurrection existence does not include earthly marriage.

3. Plus, God is the God of the living, not the God of the dead!

- a) In the resurrection the only marriage is the union between Christ and the Church!
- b) And this union is precisely why Y'shua had to stay in the Garden to fulfill the Law of the Hebrew Slave.
- c) If He would have left, decided instead, **“Not Your will, but My will be done,”** He would have had to leave His bride behind (that is us!).
 - 1) “If you buy a **Hebrew servant**, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. But if the servant plainly says, **‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’** then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall **pierce**

his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.” Exodus 21:2-6 NKJV

d) At the transfiguration in Matthew 17:2, we got a preview of the glorified body Y’shua and we would have in the resurrection. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He chose to stay and give His life (and to keep His bride), so He would die and resurrect in a glorified body, never to go back to Spirit form. This way He could marry us in our glorified bodies (as the same species—(see I Corinthians 15:35-58) at the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:7-9)!

1) “So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is **sown in corruption**, it is **raised in incorruption**. It is **sown in dishonor**, it is **raised in glory**. It is **sown in weakness**, it is **raised in power**. It is **sown a natural body**, it is **raised a spiritual body**. There is a **natural body**, and there is a **spiritual body**.” I Corinthians 15:42-44 NKJV

2) Y’shua came to earth as a bondservant without a wife: “*made Himself of no reputation, **taking***

the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:7 NKJV

- 3) Remember, what Y'shua wanted in the garden was...*"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me..."* (See Matthew 26:36-46)
- 4) However, He was betrothed a bride (that's you) by His Master, after He became a slave, so...
- 5) ...to keep His bride, He had to choose to stay and be pierced!
- 6) **Bride = Church:** "Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her**, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, **just as the Lord does the church.** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. **"For this reason** a man shall leave his

father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**” Ephesians 5:25-32 NKJV

7) Hence... *“Not My will, but Yours, be done”* as opposed to... *“Not Your will, but My will be done!”*

(f) The Sadducees and the crowds watching walk away astonished and in silence, also having gathered ZERO evidence against Him.

C. From Scribes: Which is the great commandment in the law?

(1) More Legal Questions!

(a) First: Do we pay taxes? Then: What’s the rule on marriage? And now that they are all “marveled and astonished,” let’s just go in for the kill and send in the big guns! Which is the great commandment in the law?

1. “But when the Pharisees **heard that He had silenced the Sadducees**, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, **“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”** Jesus said to him, **“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’** This is

the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' On these two commandments **hang all the Law and the Prophets.**'" Matthew 22:34-40 NKJV

(2) The Scribes ask: Which is the great commandment in the law?

(a) Now the Pharisees step up for another shot at Him, having heard that the Sadducees attempt fell flat. And they bring out a biblical law expert—a Scribe.

1. The biblical lawyer gives Him a one question test:

a) First he admits Y'shua is a teacher—sets Him up!

b) Then he attempts to—knock Him down!

c) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(b) Answer: Y'shua gives two!

1. **The First Command:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

a) **Y'shua takes that from Deuteronomy 6:** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**"

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NKJV

- b) Missing in Matthew is the first part of the command...Mark actually includes the more complete version in his account.
- 1) "Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'" Mark 12:29-31 NKJV
- c) That first part, *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"* is the key to understanding unity of the faith... God is One!
- 1) "'I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as**

We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." John 17:20-23 NKJV

- 2) "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**"

Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

2. **The Second Command:** "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

- a) **He takes that from Leviticus 19:** "'You shall **not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin** because of him. **You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people, but

you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

b) Let's break down what it means to love your neighbor!

- 1) When you see your brother sinning, DON'T stand by and watch and say nothing!
- 2) Rebuke him, correct him, guide him, help him!
- 3) If you don't, that is the same as HATING him.
- 4) You take vengeance on a brother by seeing him sin and then saying nothing.
- 5) Only someone with a grudge against his brother would do such a thing.

c) It's a blessing and an honor to guide someone away from their sin!

- 1) *“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and **someone turns him back**, let him know that he **who turns a sinner from the error of his way** will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”* James 5:19-20 NKJV

(c) **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets...** Every commandment in Law, even all of them elaborated upon in the writings of the Prophets,

will fit under either of these two categories: (1) Love God (2) Love one another!

1. Food for Thought

a) All the laws of God hang on LOVE because God is Love (I John 4:8-16). What does that mean about all the Laws? It means that each of these TWO super-categories of law, love God and love others, are moral in nature—they teach us how to LOVE! Many godly men from the past wished they could understand this, but could not—you should!

1) ““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”
Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV

2) “Whoever therefore **breaks one of the least of these commandments**, and teaches men so, shall be called **least in the kingdom of heaven**; but **whoever does and teaches them**, he shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven.**”
Matthew 5:19 NKJV

3) “Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for **I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.**”” Luke 10:23-24 NKJV

b) Laws are often categorized. For instance...

- 1) The Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:1-17 are not ten simple commands, but rather ten categories of commands.
- 2) The rules for new Gentile converts to the faith in Acts 15:19-21 are not just three commands but three categories of commands... *“Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to **abstain from things polluted by idols [Idolatry], from sexual immorality [Sexual Purity], from things strangled, and from blood [Food Laws]**. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.*”” Acts 15:19-21 NKJV

- 3) Think about how many different commandments there are that fall under each category: (1) Idolatry (2) Sexual Purity (3) Food Laws
- c) God's laws are a Love Fest—*On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets...* Love God and love others!
- 1) **"If you love** Me [God], [you would] keep My [His] commandments." John 14:15 NKJV
 - 2) "Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **He who does not love Me does not keep My words;** and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." John 14:23-24 NKJV
 - 3) **"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar;** for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that **he who loves God must love his brother also."** I John 4:20-21 NKJV

- 4) “Now by **this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** He who says, “**I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says **he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”** I John 2:3-6 NKJV
- 5) “**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.** For **this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.** And His commandments are not burdensome.” I John 5:2-3 NKJV

SILENCING THE DETRACTORS

3. No one would dare challenge Him publicly again!

A. They were silenced!

(1) Y’shua: Whose Son is He?

(a) What do you think about the Christ?

1. “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the

Christ? **Whose Son is He?**" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "**How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'** saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, **Till I make Your enemies Your footstool**" '? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' **how is He his Son?**" And **no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.**" Matthew 22:41-46 NKJV

- a) They would have to find another way!
 - 1) Last week we saw their mounting concerns for how they could not easily stop Y'shua by using a public approach... See [Going on the Offensive](#)
 - 2) *"Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, **they perceived that He was speaking of them.** But when they sought to lay hands on Him, **they feared the multitudes,** because they took Him for a prophet."* Matthew 21:45-46 NKJV
- b) That is why they must later hatch a secret plan with Judas Iscariot to betray Him quietly!
 - 1) "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are

you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?”
And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. **So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.**” Matthew 26:14-16 NKJV

2) “And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. **Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.”** Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” **and kissed Him.**” Matthew 26:47-49 NKJV

(2) While the Pharisees were still gathered together, Y’shua asks a question of His own.

(a) What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?

1. He poses a very provocative question to the Pharisees and Scribes.

2. In your theological studies, and since you have a law expert present to help you get the answer right...

“Whose Son is the anointed one that you are expecting to come as your Messiah?”

3. And, since you all know that the coming Messiah is called the Son of David, why does the Spirit inspire David to call the coming Messiah “Lord”?
- (b) They, of course, know that the coming Messiah would be “The Son of David.” Why is this title relevant? It is a Messianic title.
1. **“‘When your [David’s] days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”**
- ’ ” According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.” II Samuel 7:12-17 NKJV

(c) When people referred to Jesus as the Son of David, they meant that He was the long-awaited Deliverer, the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy!

1. "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the **Son of David**, the Son of Abraham:" Matthew 1:1 NKJV
2. "When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "**Son of David**, have mercy on us!" Matthew 9:27 NKJV
3. "Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "**Could this be the Son of David?**" Matthew 12:22-23 NKJV
4. "And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, **Son of David!** My daughter is severely demon-possessed." Matthew 15:22 NKJV
5. "Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "**Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!**" Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but **they cried out all the more,**

saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, **Son of David!**"

So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" They said to Him, "**Lord, that our eyes may be opened.**" So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him."

Matthew 20:29-34 NKJV

6. "Then **the multitudes** who went before and those who followed **cried out**, saying: "Hosanna to the **Son of David!** 'Blessed is **He who comes in the name of the Lord!**' Hosanna in the highest!"" Matthew 21:9 NKJV

(d) And here is how He silences His interrogators! "*If He is David's son, why does the spirit inspire David to call Him Lord?*" '**The Lord said to my Lord**, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" '?

1. "**The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."** The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!" Psalms 110:1-2 NKJV

- a) No one can answer His questions.
- b) This is the last time anyone publicly attempts to question and entrap Y'shua.

- c) And note to the religious leaders looking on...His enemies will be under his feet and He will rule over them!

(e) Until His enemies are made His footstool...

1. "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, **from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." Hebrews 10:12-14 NKJV
2. "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. **For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.** For **"He has put all things under His feet."** But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." I Corinthians 15:24-28 NKJV

B. Mic Drop

(1) ...used to emphasize that **a discussion is at an end** after a definitive or particularly impressive point has been made.

(a) While the Pharisees were still gathered together, Y'shua asks a question that ends this interrogation!

1. **"If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"**

And **no one was able to answer Him a word** [*the Mic Drop Moment*], nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore." Matthew 22:45-46 NKJV

a) ...an instance of deliberately dropping or tossing aside one's microphone at the end of a performance or speech one **considers to have been particularly impressive.**

2. **Mic Drop!** **"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"** Luke 6:46 NKJV

a) "Whoever comes to Me, and **hears My sayings and does them**, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But **he who heard and did nothing** is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the

stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell.
And the ruin of that house was great.”” Luke
6:47-49 NKJV

3. **Mic Drop!** “Having disarmed principalities and powers, **He made a public spectacle of them**, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:15 NKJV
 - a) A mic drop is an emphatic and declarative gesture signifying **the conclusion of a performance of note**, often literally (or as if) dropping a microphone.
 - (b) And that was just a one piece of the infinite pie!
 1. “And **there are also many other things that Jesus did**, which if they were written one by one, **I suppose that even the world itself could not contain** the books that would be written. Amen.” John 21:25 NKJV
 - a) You are his letters still being written in the earth!
 - 1) “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; **clearly you are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, **written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” II Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV

C. Better to say nothing than to condemn yourself with your own words!

- (1) “And ***no one was able to answer Him a word***, nor from that day on ***did anyone dare question Him anymore.***”

Matthew 22:46 NKJV

- (a) Better to keep your mouth shut than to indict yourself!

1. “**In the multitude of words sin is not lacking**, But he who **restrains his lips is wise.**” Proverbs 10:19 NKJV

2. “When words abound, transgression is ****inevitable***, but the one who **restrains his words is wise.**”

Proverbs 10:19 NET (****Does not cease!***)

- a) It is impossible to avoid sinning if you keep on talking. Sooner or later something will exit your mouth that will get you in trouble!

- (b) Fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation...

1. “For **if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but **a certain fearful expectation of judgment**, and **fiery indignation** which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law** dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **Of how much worse** punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has

trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"

Hebrews 10:26-29 NKJV

- a) Some are willing to pave the way to their own destruction with deception and by the shedding of innocent blood, scarlet droplets that will ultimately punctate their hard hearts and seal their fates.
- b) What about you? Do your words indict Him or betray Him? Oh, it's not Him I am concerned for, it's you—because if you insist, His words will leave you speechless.

Summary: ARRANGED MARRIAGE

1. Who will accept the invitation?

A. The focus in on the guests!

(1) The Parable of the Wedding Feast

- (a) How did you get in here without a wedding garment?

(2) The Parable of the Wedding Feast explained...

- (a) Y'shua gives yet another parable: the kingdom of heaven is like...

- 1. A king's son is promised in an arranged marriage and it's time for the wedding.

- a) Hint: we are in an arranged marriage as the betrothed bride of Christ!
- 2. He sends servants to gather those who were invited.
 - a) Notice there is no mention of the bride for the son. All the emphasis is on the guests!
- 3. The original invitees are not willing to attend.
 - a) They seem to have no interest in the “Son’s wedding.” They show no respect for the son, much like we saw when the tenants murdered the son in *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants* in Matthew 21:33-46. After that parable, the religious leaders knew that Y’shua was referring to them as those who would disregard “the Son!”
- (b) He sends servants a second time with additional details!
 - 1. They describe the expensive dinner and how it is ready—so please come now.
 - a) Those invited don’t take the invitation seriously...
 - 1) Some go back to farming.
 - 2) Others go back to business as usual.
 - 3) And some are not only aloof, but downright wicked and they kill the king’s servants who offered the invitation. (Similar to how the

tenants murdered the son in *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants*).

4) The king retaliates by destroying the murderers and burning their city.

(c) Luke offered another take on this parable with the same theme, but with a few different perspectives. (See *The Parable of the Great Banquet* in Luke 14:15-24.) Luke emphasized the dangers of making excuses.

1. As opposed to the *Wedding Invite Parable* which displayed some who were invited as downright wicked, this version shows the equal danger of **filling your life with busyness and excuses** as for why they could not accept the invitation.

(d) It's time for a new guest list...

1. The wedding is ready but, unfortunately, the original guests rejected the offer.

2. In other words, the groom is ready, but the bride has other things to do!

3. They were obviously not worth inviting.

4. "Expand your search to an unlimited area and invite anyone who will attend," the king commands.

(3) This is all yet another convicting message that cuts the religious leaders to the core. As we saw in...

- (a) *The Parable of the Two Sons* in Matthew 21:28-32, and,
 - (b) *The Parable of the Wicked Vineyard Tenants* in Matthew 21:33-46...
 - (c) ...it is clearly the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Herodians that he is addressing as those who will MISS THE WEDDING! They are and will continue to REJECT HIS invitation.
- (4) Sending out a new invitation is precisely what we see in Romans 10 and 11! (Read Romans 10:9-21 & 11:1-36)
- (a) You have to send out servants with new invitations...
 - (b) Invite everyone—even those who don't expect an invitation...
 - (c) The original invitees will not get to share in the marriage supper, but others who were not originally invited will!
 - (d) It was all necessary, otherwise those unexpected guests would have never had a chance to be invited. Plus, some of the original invites will eventually find their way to their seats!
 - (e) So, in the parable, the servants expanded their search and filled the wedding hall with every type of guest—some bad and some good, some who should not really be there and some who should.

1. When the king arrived to greet his new guests, he finds a man with no wedding garment.
2. How did you get into the wedding without being prepared (properly dressed)?
3. The man has no answer. He remains speechless!
 - a) In other words, do you know how to be dressed to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb? No! Then get out; you can't stay!
4. Proper dress code...adorned in fine linen which equates to righteousness.
 - a) You better have the proper clothes on when you show up for the wedding.
 - b) And there is only one way to be dressed appropriately!
5. We are only made righteous (dressed properly) in Christ and from then on we are to practice that righteousness (practice wearing those clothes) .
6. There is a different banquet for those without the proper dress code—**the outer darkness dinner party!**
 - a) Many are called to the wedding, but few can stay.
 - b) This is the same idea that ended the *Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard* as well.

- c) Many are called to the vineyard—few really appreciate the opportunity (Matthew 20:16)

Summary: INTERROGATION

2. Now we enter a series of provocative questions...

A. From Pharisees: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?

- (1) They marveled!
 - (a) Beware of flattery followed by questions!
- (2) The Pharisees ask: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?
 - (a) The Pharisees want to trick Y'shua into saying something they can later use to indict Him.
 - (b) The students of the Pharisees team up with the Herodians and use flattery to entice Y'shua into answering the question.
 - 1. Flattery
 - a) We know that You are completely honest...
 - b) And we know You correctly interpret God's word...
 - c) And we know You are never impressed by nor swayed by man's influence or opinion.
 - 1) And now that you are buttered up...we have a question for you!
 - 2) Pharisees team up with the Herodians...
 - (c) About the Herodians

1. At the time of Christ, certain groups held positions of authority and power over the people—the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the Sadducees.
 2. The Sanhedrin was the religious court (a council of seventy Pharisees and Sadducees who made all the legal decisions for the Jews).
 3. The Scribes were the biblical lawyers.
 4. Each of these groups held power in either religious or political matters.
 5. The Herodians held political power as they were the party that supported King Herod Antipas, the Roman Empire's ruler (4 B.C. to A.D. 39), over much of the land the Jews occupied.
 6. The Herodians favored submitting to the Herods, and therefore to Rome, for political expediency.
 7. In the minds of the Pharisees, the Herodians' political views compromised Jewish aspirations for independence, making it difficult for the Herodians and Pharisees to unite and agree on anything...well, except this one thing!
- (d) They both opposed Y'shua so they joined efforts to achieve their common goal to get rid of Him—*"The enemy of my enemy is my friend!"*

1. Herod himself wanted Jesus dead
 2. The Pharisees had already hatched plots against Jesus
 3. The first appearance of the Herodians in Scripture...
 4. And then they again appear here in Matthew 22:16.
 - a) The Herodians joined with the Pharisees to challenge Jesus, to see if they could trap Him in His words by a trick question.
 - b) *"The enemy of my enemy is my friend!"*
- (e) Here is our question:
1. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?
 - a) For all the reasons for which they just flattered Him, Y'shua sees right through their schemes, manipulation, and malicious intent and He does what He always does when asked a question intended to entrap Him. He asks His own question.
 - 1) "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?"
- (f) Then, Y'shua shows them how He is simply not part of nor interested in the world's system or economy by identifying the type of money used to pay taxes, and the system it belongs to, while contrasting it to God's system and economy.

1. The Pharisees and Herodians are left speechless and must slink away having gathered ZERO evidence against Him
2. Show Me the money!
 - a) Show Me the what money is used to pay taxes.
 - b) The money depicts Caesar's image and it's inscription shows that its purpose and utility is for transactions and commerce in the Roman system.
 - c) When you operate in that system, use their means of exchange.
 - d) Much like when we travel out of our own country, we must obtain the local currency of our destination country, if we intend to make any transactions in that foreign nation.
 - e) But, when you are transacting business with God in His Kingdom economy, Roman money has NO VALUE.
- (g) Two Worlds Two Kingdoms
 1. God's Kingdom Economy
 - a) It's an upside down economy
 - b) Reap without sowing...
 - c) Seek first the kingdom and don't worry about earthly things!

- d) Y'shua operates in God's kingdom, not this world!
- e) This world is not His kingdom...
- f) Do not love the world...

B. From Sadducees: Whose wife of the seven will she be?

- (1) They were astonished!
 - (a) You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God!
- (2) The Sadducees ask: Whose wife of the seven will she be?
 - (a) Now it's the Sadducees' turn and this is how they attempt to trap Y'shua...
 - 1. They reference the law that instructs a man to marry his deceased brother's wife if he has died without a son, so she can bear a son to carry her dead husband's name.
 - a) They are referencing the Law of the Levirate marriage...
 - (b) Then they complicate the matter by imagining that this could happen seven times with the same woman and seven different brothers, all who die with no son.
 - 1. You can see this law in action with Judah and his sons!
 - a) You can read about the rest of the drama in Genesis 38.

- b) Judah's third son Shelah is too young to marry Tamar right away, so Judah tells her to stay single until he is old enough.
 - c) But really Judah does not want to give his third son in fear of his life.
2. In a sense, you can also see this law in action between King David and Uriah after David had Uriah killed to cover up his adulterous affair with Uriah's wife Bathsheba.
- a) (Read II Samuel 11) Uriah died without a son who would preserve his name. As such His name would have been blotted out of history.
 - b) Except for the supernatural hand of God who preserved Uriah's name in the lineage of Y'shua the Messiah... *"and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her **who had been the wife of Uriah.**"* Matthew 1:6 NKJV
 - c) Notice how Matthew inserts Uriah's name as the "sonless" deceased husband, as opposed to Bathsheba's name as Solomon's mother.
 - d) And Solomon was not even the child who was fathered in the affair. That child died...

- e) David was supernaturally caused to fulfill the Law of the Levirate Marriage for Uriah.
- (c) Last of all, in the story the Sadducees are telling, the woman dies before any son had been born to any of her seven husbands.
- (d) The Sadducees question: Whose wife is she in the resurrection?
 - 1. Mind you, this whole “what will happen in the resurrection thing” is a poor strategy to use to fool Y’shua, as the Sadducees don’t even believe in a resurrection and He is well aware of their position.
 - 2. It would be like me asking a pharmaceutical “expert” which of the Covid Vaccines would be better for me to take, when they already know that my position on vaccines is that they are all harmful and that I would never take any vaccine.
 - a) And much like the Herodians and Pharisee have their “inter-sect” impasses on religious and political views, so do the Sadducees and Pharisees
 - b) Paul, **who was a Pharisee**, understood the resurrection. If there is no resurrection, then your faith is in vain.

- (e) Then Y'shua dismantles the premise of their entire question.
1. Your errors are generated because you don't know God's word nor His grace.
 2. Your post-resurrection existence does not include earthly marriage.
 3. Plus, God is the God of the living, not the God of the dead!
 - a) In the resurrection the only marriage is the union between Christ and the Church!
 - b) And this union is precisely why Y'shua had to stay in the Garden to fulfill the Law of the Hebrew Slave.
 - c) If He would have left, decided instead, **“Not Your will, but My will be done,”** He would have had to leave His bride behind (that is us!).
 - d) At the transfiguration in Matthew 17:2, we got a preview of the glorified body Y'shua and we would have in the resurrection. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He chose to stay and give His life (and to keep His bride), so He would die and resurrect in a glorified body, never to go back to Spirit form. This way He could marry us in our

glorified bodies (as the same species) at the marriage supper of the lamb!

- 1) Y'shua came to earth as a bondservant without a wife:
 - 2) Remember, what Y'shua wanted in the garden was...*"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me..."*
 - 3) However, He was betrothed a bride (that's you) by His Master, after He became a slave, so...
 - 4) ...to keep His bride, He had to choose to stay and be pierced!
 - 5) Hence... *"Not My will, but Yours, be done"* as opposed to... *"Not Your will, but My will be done!"*
- (f) The Sadducees and the crowds watching walk away astonished and in silence, also having gathered ZERO evidence against Him.

C. From Scribes: Which is the great commandment in the law?

(1) More Legal Questions!

- (a) First: Do we pay taxes? Then: What's the rule on marriage? And now that they are all "marveled and astonished," let's just go in for the kill and send in the big guns! Which is the great commandment in the law?

(2) The Scribes ask: Which is the great commandment in the law?

(a) Now the Pharisees step up for another shot at Him, having heard that the Sadducees attempt fell flat. And they bring out a biblical law expert—a Scribe.

1. The biblical lawyer gives Him a one question test:

- a) First he admits Y'shua is a teacher—sets Him up!
- b) Then he attempts to—knock Him down!
- c) “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

(b) Answer: Y'shua gives two!

1. **The First Command:** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- a) Missing in Matthew is the first part of the command...Mark actually includes the more complete version in his account.
- b) That first part, *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”* is the key to understanding unity of the faith... God is One!

2. **The Second Command:** “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- a) Let's break down what it means to love your neighbor!
 - 1) When you see your brother sinning, DON'T stand by and watch and say nothing!
 - 2) Rebuke him, correct him, guide him, help him!
 - 3) If you don't, that is the same as HATING him.
 - 4) You take vengeance on a brother by seeing him sin and then saying nothing.
 - 5) Only someone with a grudge against his brother would do such a thing.
- b) It's a blessing and an honor to guide someone away from their sin!
- (c) **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets...** Every commandment in Law, even all of them elaborated upon in the writings of the Prophets, will fit under either of these two categories: (1) Love God (2) Love one another!

1. Food for Thought

- a) All the laws of God hang on LOVE because God is Love (I John 4:8-16). What does that mean about all the Laws? It means that each of these TWO super-categories of law, love God and love others, are moral in nature—they teach us how to LOVE!

Many godly men from the past wished they could understand this, but could not—you should!

- b) Laws are often categorized. For instance...
 - 1) The Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:1-17 are not ten simple commands, but rather ten categories of commands.
 - 2) The rules for new Gentile converts to the faith in Acts 15:19-21 are not just three commands but three categories of commands...
 - 3) Think about how many different commandments there are that fall under each category: (1) Idolatry (2) Sexual Purity (3) Food Laws
- c) God's laws are a Love Fest—*On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets...* Love God and love others!

Summary: SILENCING THE DETRACTORS

3. No one would dare challenge Him publicly again!

A. They were silenced!

- (1) Y'shua: Whose Son is He?
 - (a) What do you think about the Christ?
 - 1. They would have to find another way!

- a) Last week we saw their mounting concerns for how they could not easily stop Y'shua by using a public approach...
 - b) That is why they must later hatch a secret plan with Judas Iscariot to betray Him quietly!
- (2) While the Pharisees were still gathered together, Y'shua asks a question of His own.
- (a) What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?
 - 1. He poses a very provocative question to the Pharisees and Scribes.
 - 2. In your theological studies, and since you have a law expert present to help you get the answer right...
"Whose Son is the anointed one that you are expecting to come as your Messiah?"
 - 3. And, since you all know that the coming Messiah is called the Son of David, why does the Spirit inspire David to call the coming Messiah "Lord"?
 - (b) They, of course, know that the coming Messiah would be "The Son of David." Why is this title relevant? It is a Messianic title.
 - (c) When people referred to Jesus as the Son of David, they meant that He was the long-awaited Deliverer, the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy!

(d) And here is how He silences His interrogators! *“If He is David’s son, why does the spirit inspire David to call Him Lord?”* **The Lord said to my Lord**, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ‘?

1. No one can answer His questions.
2. This is the last time anyone publicly attempts to question and entrap Y’shua.
3. And note to the religious leaders looking on...His enemies will be under his feet and He will rule over them!

(e) Until His enemies are made His footstool...

B. Mic Drop

- (1) ...used to emphasize that **a discussion is at an end** after a definitive or particularly impressive point has been made.
- (a) While the Pharisees were still gathered together, Y’shua asks a question that ends this interrogation!
1. ...an instance of deliberately dropping or tossing aside one’s microphone at the end of a performance or speech one **considers to have been particularly impressive.**
 2. A mic drop is an emphatic and declarative gesture signifying **the conclusion of a performance of note**, often literally (or as if) dropping a microphone.

(b) And that was just a one piece of the infinite pie!

(c) You are his letters still being written in the earth!

C. Better to say nothing than to condemn yourself with your own words!

(2) Better to keep your mouth shut than to indict yourself!

(3) It is impossible to avoid sinning if you keep on talking.

Sooner or later something will exit your mouth that will get you in trouble!

(4) Fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation...

1. Some are willing to pave the way to their own destruction with deception and by the shedding of innocent blood, scarlet droplets that will ultimately punctate their hard hearts and seal their fates.
2. What about you? Do your words indict Him or betray Him. Oh, it's not Him I am concerned for, it's you—because if you insist, His words will leave you speechless.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Read the Parable of the Wedding Feast Matthew 22:1-14...

- A. Why do those on the original guest list refuse to come to the wedding?
- B. What happens to the servants who go out to gather the guests and what is the king's response?
- C. When we consider who is listening, who are the original guests and who are the substitute guests?
- D. How might this *Parable of the Wedding Feast* be related to Romans 10:9-21 & 11:1-36?
- E. Describe what happens to the alternative guest who is not dressed properly and why?
- F. How might the fate of that unprepared guest relate to the Christian faith?
- G. How is this parable similar to *The Parable of the Great Banquet* in Luke 14:15-24?
- H. Bonus: why is the entire focus on the guests and not the bride? Hint: how might the guests be a symbol of the bride? (See Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-2, 9)

2. Y'shua is questioned by the Pharisees in Matthew 22:15-22...

- A. What do the Pharisees ask Him?
- B. What do they do first, before they drop their question?

- C. How does Y'shua handle the question?
- D. How is His answer related to the following passages:
(Matthew 20:16; 25:24; 6:19-33; John 17:16; 18:36; I John 2:15)?

3. Y'shua is questioned by the Sadducees in Matthew 22:23-33...

- A. What do the Sadducees ask Him?
- B. What complicated picture do they paint in order somehow trick Him?
- C. Why is it bizarre that the Sadducees, in particular, would use a question about the resurrection?
- D. Describe in your own words the Law they are referring to when they say, "Moses said..." (See Deuteronomy 25:5-6)
- E. How might that law have played a role between David and Uriah in Read II Samuel 11? (Hint: see Matthew 1:6)
- F. What is Paul's stance on the resurrection and how does it show he was a Pharisee and not a Sadducee? (See I Corinthians 15:12-19)

4. Y'shua dismantles the Sadducees' question by saying, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God." In other words, "Your errors are generated because you don't know God's word nor His grace."

- A. Use the following Scripture passages to write an essay that correctly explains marriage post-resurrection. (Exodus 21:2-6;

Philippians 2:7; Matthew 26:36-46; 17:2; I Corinthians 15:35-58; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-9)

5. Y'shua is questioned by the Scribe in Matthew 22:34-40...

- A. What is his question and how does Y'shua use Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:17-18 to answer?
- B. How does Mark's gospel differ from Matthew on this answer? (See and compare Mark 12:29-31; Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Matthew 22:37-40)
- C. How does Mark's more complete answer relate to John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 4:1-6?
- D. What does Leviticus 19:17-18 specifically teach about "how" to love your neighbor?
- E. How is it that "On only two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets?" (See: John 14:15-24; I John 2:3-6; 4:20-21; 5:2-3)

6. Y'shua is the one doing the questioning in Matthew 22:41-46...

- A. What does He ask His detractors that leave them in stunned silence?
- B. Why is the title "The Son of David" a clear admission that He is the awaited Messiah? (See II Samuel 7:12-17)
- C. Why is it better to say nothing at times than to keep on talking? (See Proverbs 10:19; Hebrews 10:26-29)