

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 21 ~ Exploring Chapter 22:15 – 23:39

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 22:15 – 23:39
- Read 22:15-23:39 through two times; then work out the following exercises in you Matthew notebook.
 - List what a Christian can learn from 22:15-22 regarding responsibility to human government.
 - Are a Christian's duties to God and Caesar equal, as some conclude from 22:21? If not, which one comes first? How do you know?
 - What does a reading of Romans 13:1-7 add to your understanding of 22:21?
 - What does Acts 5:17-29 add?
 - How is your relationship to "Caesar"? Are you always honest in your rendering unto "Caesar"? What about your rendering unto God? In what ways are you satisfied with the adequacy of your duty to each? How might you improve?
- Re-read Matthew 22:34-40 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Use the marginal references in your Bible to discover the two Old Testament sources for the two great commandments of 22: 37-39. Use a concordance to discover how Jesus redefined and broadened the term neighbor for His hearers. Then summarize your findings, and refer to the most important texts that help us understand Jesus' definition of the term.
 - If you only had two paragraphs to summarize how you live the two great commandments, what are the most important things you could say?
- Re-read Matthew 23:1-39 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Outline Matthew 23 and then summarize Jesus' meaning in each paragraph.
 - Explain the significance of 23:37-39. What is the connection between that passage and chapter 24?
 - Why do you believe the characteristically "meek and mild" Jesus comes out so strong in chapter 23? How does that change fit into the progressive flow of His ministry in the first Gospel?
 - If Jesus earthly ministry was taking place in the 21st century who might his "woes" be aimed at?
 - Spend sometime this week pondering if there is anything in your life that would cause Jesus to say "woe" to you. If you discover some list them in your notebook and then discuss what you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you to do to address them.

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).