

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Days of Inspection 3: Scribe

Last time...the inspection of God's Passover Lamb continued

The unspiritual Sadducees came with a spiritual question intending to make
Jesus (and the promise in God's Word of the resurrection) look foolish

The Sadducees ate crow and dared not speak again

The multitudes of people watching and listening were astonished at Jesus'
doctrine/teaching

The a certain scribe "applauded"

This time...the inspection of the Lamb of God continues and concludes

The certain (one) scribe has a question

We will again be in Matt 22 and Mark 12 (this encounter is not recorded in Luke)

Matt 22:34-40

v34 Pharisees...Sadducees...gathered together:

Previously, the Pharisees had sent some of their disciples,
accompanied with some Herodians,
to trap Jesus regarding the "legality" of paying taxes to Caesar

The simple yet deep wisdom of Jesus...

Render unto Caesar the things which belong to Caesar and unto God the
things which belong to God"...

left them speechless...and they retreated from center stage

Then came the Sadducees regarding the resurrection

The simple yet deep wisdom of Jesus...

I AM not the God of the dead, but of the living...

also left them speechless and they retreated from center stage

The Pharisees heard that the Sadducees had fared no better than they had –
both are empty-handed, having trapped only themselves

So the Pharisees gathered together to discuss, "Now what do we do?"

v35-36 Then one of them, a lawyer...the great commandment:
Out of that discussion came one of the Pharisees, a lawyer/scribe.
He has a question of Jesus regarding the Law:
Master, which is the great (big, very wide) commandment in the Law?

Note: There are 613 laws, 10 written in stone

Note: Keep Matt 5:48 and James 2:10 in mind!

In v35 we are told the scribe is “tempting” Jesus, meaning
testing, trying, scrutinizing, examining

What is this scribe’s motive?

Is it malicious and hostile?

Is it sincere and genuine?

Is this question a trap or is it an honest test of the depth of Jesus’ mastery of
Divine truth?

v37-38 love the Lord:

Notice that there is no v18 or “Ye do err” (v29) or “have ye not read” (v31)
with this scribe

Jesus simply answers his question

The first/foremost and great/big/wide commandment is...Deut 6:5

Love...in the Greek of v37: agape (a greater revelation of “love”)

the Lord...Supreme Authority

thy/your God...Supreme Divinity

with all...entirety, whole

heart...understanding, will, emotions, very center of one’s being

soul...being, life

mind...intellect, reasoning, understanding, imagination

(the terms are intertwined, overlapping, inseparable)

This is THE VERY BEST thing a person can do

Eccl 12:13

The very essence of Table 1 of the Ten Commandments (#1-4)

This is the answer to the scribe’s question

But Jesus augments His answer...He has a Bonus answer

v39 love thy neighbor:

The second in rank/importance commandment is like the first and great Commandment:

Love your neighbor as yourself...Lev 19:18

The very essence of Table 2 of the Ten Commandments (#5-10)

How is the 2nd like the 1st?

What is the common denominator?

Love

Jesus then completes His answer to the scribe

v40 On these two...hang all:

On "Love the Lord your God with all" and "Love your neighbor as yourself"
hang (like a cloak hangs on or covers a hook)

- all the Law
- all the prophets
- all the Word of God

What is the depth of Jesus' understanding of Divine truth?

He takes all the scrolls...Law and prophets...and reduces them to two sentences

To succinctly summarize a vast amount of material requires a deep knowledge of all the material

To simply state a very complex/complicated issue requires a very deep understanding of the issue

We find very important details in Mark's account

Mark 12:28-34

v28 one of the scribes...perceiving that he had answered them well:

Who is this scribe that

- heard the Pharisees reasoning together (Matt 22:34)
- (perhaps heard the Pharisees and Sadducees reasoning together)
- perceived the good answer Jesus gave to the Sadducees?

The certain (one) scribe of Luke 20:39

Then certain of the scribes answering said, Master, thou hast well said.

This scribe's approval of Jesus' answer to the Sadducees was sincere

Is his question of Jesus sincere or hostile?

v29-30 The Lord our God is one Lord...Love the Lord thy God:

In Mark's account, Jesus' answer to the scribe is recorded more completely

The first commandment is...Deut 6:4-5

v4 the LORD...Self-Existent, eternal Jehovah, the Source of Life
God...*Elohim* ("-im" in Hebrew = "s" in English)
one..."*echad*" = united, one

The mystery of the Living God, the LORD God, the Creator,
the Self-Existent and eternal God of heaven: One

In Mark 12:29, the Greek word means "one, only"

Yet in Hebrew (Deut 6:4) it (also) means "united" (*echad*)

As in Gen 2:24 man cleave to wife, they shall be one flesh
Gen 1:26-27 Let us make man in our image
So God created man in His image, in the
image of God created He him
(singular); male and female created
He them (plural)

Male: singular, separate and distinct, 100% human
Female: singular, separate and distinct, 100% human
Male + Female: singular, one Man...united

The nature/essence of OTL God: a mystery revealed in Scripture
God the Father: separate and distinct, 100% Deity
God the Son: separate and distinct, 100% Deity
God the Holy Spirit: separate and distinct, 100% Deity
F + S + HS: singular, one LORD God...united

Ps 86:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy
truth: unite my heart to fear thy name

unite (*yachad*) means "to be/become one"

v5 all...whole, not half or mostly or any other portion

- heart
- soul
- mind
- strength: doing, action

with every ounce of your being, with every fiber of your being

Bearing in mind Jesus' words to the Pharisees (this scribe is one) in Jerusalem,

John 5:16-18, 24

John 8:12, 23-24, 44-47, 51-59

John 10:24-33

Jesus is neither backing off nor contradicting what He has previously said

This is the very Commandment the religious thought Jesus was breaking

He is again planting a stake in the ground of this scribe's heart regarding

- Who He is
- what is expected of God's people regarding Him

as He stands here in the House of God as the Lamb of God in the Final Week of His ministry

And there is more – what is expected of God's people regarding all others

v31 love thy neighbor as thyself:

Who is my neighbor?

That sounds familiar!

Jesus has already addressed that...the Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Notice: There is no commandment/instruction to love ourselves!!!

None is needed for selfish descendents of Adam and Noah

v32-33 Well, Master, thou has said the truth:

This scribe's approval of Jesus' answer to the Sadducees was sincere.

Is his approval of Jesus' answer to him sincere or malicious?

Sincere

He "salutes" the depth of Jesus' understanding of Divine truth

He absolutely believes to the words Jesus spoke

He truly "Liked" (FB term) Jesus' answer to his question

He and the other Pharisees had Deut 6:4-5 (aka the Shema) in their phylacteries

He had a very good understanding of Divine truth, the Law and Prophets

1 Sam 15:22 Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice

Is 1:4, 11 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD...To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats

To disobey the LORD God is to love Self...to not love LORD God
To obey is the LORD God to love the LORD God...to deny Self

Love is action, a choice of the will...doing something for the benefit to another even at the cost to Self

Matt 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

“Whoever loves My Father (in word and in deed), they are My Family, the Family of God.”

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God (loves My Father) abideth for ever.
(kept by the power of God, 1 Peter 1:5).

After 2 hostile and malicious “inspections” comes this sincere and genuine examination (and appreciation for the Lord’s answer, spoken publically)

v34 answered discreetly...not far from the kingdom of God:

When Jesus perceived and knew the scribe’s response to Him to be thoughtful, wise, and genuine
Jesus spoke to him with gentleness and mercy
(vs how He spoke to the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees)

“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Which is not to be confused with the kingdom of Israel,
of which he would be a citizen

Which is now (Luke 17:20-21)

- within, spiritual...NOT by observation/visual sight
- “inhabited” by the just who live by faith

Which is eternally (Luke 20:34-35)

- other-worldly (not of “this” world)
- next worldly (of “that” world)

Jesus’ response to the scribe is further evidence of the sincerity of the scribe
He is not mocking Jesus
He is not trying to trick or trap Jesus

no man after that durst:

No one has anything else to say
His enemies are silenced
The scribe has much to “digest”
His disciples and the people are astonished

The inspections are over (2 hostile and 1 genuine) –
the Lamb of God in the House of God is without spot or blemish

Application: 2 words

1. Love...the operative word in Jesus’ answer to the scribe
Love speaks of relationship (2 like-minded volunteers), not obligation
The LORD God our Creator wants a relationship with each of us...
a Loving relationship, not a legal relationship

The Law was given because He loves us and because we must know we need
His help to be in relationship with Him
Is 59:1-2
John 3:16
Rom 10:4

Therefore, the Love of which God speaks is His love, not man’s love

- Self-last
- Sacrificial
- Unconditional
- Supernatural
- Action, a choice of the free will

What the LORD God is telling each of us is

- 1st love Him (Who is love and Who first loved us)
- 2nd love each other (as He loves us)

Freely receive His love, freely give His love

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:12-14 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you

Rom 5:8 God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

Rom 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law

1 John 3:11, 18

1 John 4:7-12

1 John 5:2-3

2. All

All in...whole, not half or mostly or any other portion,
with every ounce of our being, with every fiber of our being

A choice must be made...a choice of degree

Note: What purpose do these commands serve if God chooses
but man (created in the image of God) does not/cannot choose?

Our hearts and minds are “ugly houses” and need to be “flipped”
regarding Love (self-less action)

From Selfish

1. Self
2. Others
3. “God”

To Selfless

1. The LORD God
2. All others
3. Self

Eph 4:15 speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things,
which is the head, *even* Christ

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that
which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace
unto the hearers.

By, and only by, the indwelling of the Spirit of God, can we be Christ-like

Days of Inspection: Lawyer/Scribe

Strike 3!

You're out!

Now it's Jesus' turn to hit – and He does!

The mystery of God, Love, All – lead us right into the mystery of God's Messiah...
next week