

BIBLE SMASH!

Study: Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 28:19-20

Memorize: Acts 1:8

Notes:

Analyze: The background information...

Topic: The Great Commission

Matthew 2:37-40

At the time Jerusalem was under the rule of Herod the Great. A group of Herodians (those that supported Herod), Sadducees (those that studied and taught the Pentateuch) and lawyers had, according to the book of Matthew, gathered together to ask Jesus a series of questions to see where he stood in issues that may conflict with the laws of Herod, the laws of Moses, or just the laws against the laws.

The first question came from the Herodians. "Should taxes be paid to Herod?" If Jesus answered "yes" this would upset the Jews who did not want to acknowledge the rule of Herod. If Jesus answered "no" then he would be speaking against Herod, and considered a traitor to the current ruler.

The second question Jesus was asked was about marriage, adultery and the afterlife. In short, should a brother (A) marry his brother's (B) wife if his (B) wife dies and has had no male children to carry on the family?...and if so, whose wife will she be when they all get to heaven? These particular Sadducees did not believe in the afterlife and it appeared that they did not believe in the other books of the Old Testament other than the Pentateuch.

Their thought was that if Jesus

answered that it was okay for a man to marry his brother's wife that it would be considered adultery, or breaking the 7th Commandment – do not commit adultery. Jesus accuses them on not even knowing the Pentateuch – which would make them lose their credibility as those that have studied the Pentateuch.

Jesus answers the first question, "It does not matter who has married who while they lived on this earth. We will all be like angels when we get to heaven." And points out that according to Deuteronomy 25:5-20, you are not committing a sin against your brother. After your brother has died he can no longer be married to his wife, but it is suggested that you should marry your brother's wife. And secondly Jesus talks about how God says, in Exodus 3:6, he is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – as if they are still alive, meaning alive in Heaven.

The third question, and the one we are the most concerned with for the sake of this particular Bible study, comes from the lawyers. "Which law is the most important?" We are not sure of the intent of this question. It could have been a trick – If Jesus selects a single law then that would mean the rest don't really matter. If the rest don't really matter then why did God give them to us? If the rest of the laws do matter then Jesus is, in a way, speaking against the "former" laws of God. ...or this could have just been a question from a curious lawyer. In any case, Jesus again quotes from scripture, Deuteronomy

6:5, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” He also quickly adds the second greatest commandment, which is found in Leviticus 19:18 and stated similar to, “Whatever is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Law and all the other laws just go to support this law.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Check this out... The disciples have gathered to meet Jesus. Not the Jesus they knew a week or two ago, but a new Jesus. This is the Jesus that has died and risen. He has overcome death. This resurrected Jesus has called his eleven disciples to meet him on a nearby hilltop. He has a set of simple instructions to give to His disciples before He leaves them to stay with His Father in heaven until His second coming. And what Jesus says is meant to apply to us today.

Jesus starts by declaring to us that He has the authority to give us this commission. He refers to the vision that Daniel had about Him in Daniel 7:13-14 in which Daniel “sees the Son of Man who has been given authority over all people in every language.” When Jesus speaks to the disciples I am including that He is speaking to us also.

Jesus sends us out to make disciples of all nations. Not just other Jews, or other Americans, or other Chinese, every person in every country of the world no matter what language they speak. Jesus is making us His workers! We are authorized “agents” working with

the Holy Spirit to bring non-Christians to a loving relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ.

How should we do this? By baptizing them. Translated, this is not referring to the dunking of a person in water. This has two meanings: 1) “in the name of”, and 2) “in fellowship with”. We are to invite others into a relationship with God in the name of Christ Jesus and we are to spend time with these people to help them understand what it means to know God in a loving relationship. Don’t just tell someone about God, ask them to accept Jesus then leave them there. Spend time with them helping them to grow as Christians. Show them what it means, as well as tell them. Jesus tells the disciple to “teach them everything I have commanded you.” Up until this point the disciples have been the students and Jesus has been the teacher. Jesus is now passing on that teaching assignment to us. You are now to be a teacher to others as I have been at teacher to you. This is the first place in the New Testament that Jesus gives us the authority and commands us to teach. Wow, Jesus thinks we are good enough to be a teacher like he was! And that’s not all, Jesus promises that if we do these things he will be with us until the end of time. Forever. Jesus will help us become like Him as we teach others to become like Him.

Share: Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

Honor: The Image of Christ

Gracious and loving God, it is with thankfulness that I hear your call to become Christlike. Something deep within my heart stirs in its heavy sleep at your call. The memory of something I was to have been, but am not, yet could still be flits on the fringes of my consciousness. O loving God, stir up this hunger in my heart until it becomes the all-consuming passion of my life.

From "Invitation to a journey" by Robert Mulholland Jr. Page 22.

Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

Matthew 22:37-40

- 1) How would you feel if you had a ministry and others were trying to trick you to show that your ministry was not valid? How do you think Jesus felt?
- 2) Do you think Jesus answered the questions fairly and completely or do you think he left some areas unanswered and questionable? Explain your answer.
- 3) What do you think of Jesus' ability to quote scripture?
- 4) If you had to pick a "most important law" from the Bible what would you pick? Why? How is this similar or different from what Jesus picked?

Matthew 28:19-20

- 1) How do you think the disciples felt seeing the "new" resurrected Jesus? How would you have felt if you were there? (Remember – you just saw this guy hanging dead on a tree a few weeks ago.)
- 2) Do you think that Jesus needed to declare His authority to the disciples? Why or why not?
- 3) Jesus spent much of his time trying to minister to the Jewish community and now he is telling his disciples to go everywhere. Do you think this is fair? How would you respond if you were one of the eleven disciples there?
- 4) The disciples have always been students of Jesus. Now they are being asked to be the teachers. Do you think they were really ready for what Jesus was asking them to do? Explain your answer.

Acts 1:8

- 1) In your own words, what does that verse mean?
- 2) What are the limits to where we will be a witness for Christ?

- 3) How do you think we will know when the Spirit of God is upon us?
- 4) In what ways will the Spirit of God help us?

Credit

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