DAY 1: Dressed For Success

Matthew 22: Lofty Ideology Exposed

There is a wonderful organization located throughout the United States called “Dress for Success.” This organization provides interview suits, among other things, to low income women as they embark on getting a professional job and for many, starting over. The women receive a host of resources to help them embark on this journey, including an interview outfit. Most of these women lack the funds to provide this for themselves. If you’ve ever interviewed for a job, you know it is important to dress in a professional manner suitable to that business. I would never go to a professional job interview in ripped jeans and a tee shirt and think for a moment that they wouldn’t send me right back out the door I came in. As qualified as I think I might be for the job based on merit and experience, in this case, the outfit matters as it is a reflection of who I am. These women who go to “Dress for Success” can’t get these professional outfits on their own. The outfits must be given to them and I’m quite certain, they receive that precious gift with immense gratitude and can’t wait to put it on! When dressed properly, they are indeed, “Dressed for Success” and prepared for what lies ahead!

Girls, it is no different for us! When we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, He gives us a whole new wardrobe. That wardrobe begins on the inside and shines through on the outside. It isn’t about ripped jeans and t-shirts, it is Jesus Christ’s robes of righteousness. In these beginning verses in Matthew 22, you are invited to peer into the gathering of a big party. There is a dress code for this party and we will see one in particular coming to the party who doesn’t follow the dress code and is thrown out of the party. It is a powerful scene! You’ll see today, that there are many who profess the name Jesus but never allow Him authority over their lives, and therefore, they continue choosing their own clothes based on their own resume! The garments that Jesus desires to put on us can’t be bought in any store and we don’t even have enough money to buy them if they were! They were bought with the ultimate price; the life of Jesus Christ.

As we move through Matthew 22, you’ll see the religious leaders all join together in an effort to trap Jesus. Their questions will come from false ideology and understanding bathed in self-righteousness. They clearly are not adorned in the righteousness of Christ, nor do they understand the ways of God. This chapter begins with a parable that Jesus uses to address the Pharisees as they question His authority. From there, you’ll see the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees and the Scribes all come to Jesus asking political, doctrinal, ethical and finally a personal question. He will end with the all powerful and life changing truth that Jesus isn’t just to be our Savior, but He must also be our Lord. That Jesus is not only the Son of David, but the Son of the Living God! Ladies, when this truth is made known in your own life, and you receive the Living God into your life, then the outer garments reflect this reality in your heart. You will be dressed for success and Jesus will do the dressing!

At the end of this chapter, we’ll see all the religious elite and hard-hearted opposers silenced as Jesus focuses His attention to the cross and the end of His earthly journey. Time is drawing ever close to His suffering, death and resurrection. Let’s walk beside Him as we see this chapter unfold.
RECEIVING God’s Word

Open in Prayer
Read Matthew 22:1-46
Today’s Scripture Focus: Matthew 22:1-14

EXPERIENCING God’s Word

1. In these verses, we are introduced to a lot of people and a specific event. Let’s look for a moment at who these people and events are and who/what they represent by filling in the chart below.

In these verses, remember that Jesus is answering the religious elite concerning His kingdom and those who are in not only the kingdom of heaven, but the kingdom of God. Remember what you learned from Matthew 10:5-6. Jesus came first to the Jew and then to the Gentile, upon the Jews rejection of Jesus. Hopefully this will help you. (Try as best as you can. Please don’t get hung up on this. Remember, you’ll discuss it in your small groups!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who/What does it represent?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of heaven (this one should be review! :)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King (verse 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Son (verse 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage (verse 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation (verse 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Those not willing to come who went their own way verse 3) (this is specific group of people)</td>
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Those who made light of the invitation after receiving a second invitation (verse 5) Read Acts 7:51 (Again, a specific group of people)

Those gathered from the highways, both good and bad (verse 10) (A specific group of people)

The man at the wedding who did not have on a wedding garment (verse 11)

2. There is a time shift that happens between verses 3 & 4. Verse 4 begins with the word again. Circle that word in your Bible. Read Matthew 10:5-6. Now go to Acts 3:17-26. Read through these verses and note when this is happening and to whom the Gospel is being preached, again? (Hint: This is a specific group of people.)

a. Read Acts 7:51-53. What does this group do to Jesus? How does this tie into the parable in Matthew 22:3-5?

The rest of this parable looks forward to things to come after Jesus’ death and resurrection. In verse 6, we see of the death that will come to some of Jesus’ servants for the sake of the Gospel (Acts 7:54-60). In verse 7, we see a foreshadowing of the destruction that would take place in Jerusalem in A.D. 70, at which time, the Jews would be scattered.
3. Why did the servants go out into the highways to invite people to the wedding ceremony? Who was now being gathered and invited?

4. What did the king see upon arriving at the ceremony in verse 11?

In order to receive salvation, you must come to the Lord on His terms, not your own. If you remember the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4, Abel approached the Lord on His terms by bringing God a fruit offering as he was a farmer. Abel, Cain’s brother, kept sheep and when it was time, Abel brought his firstborn sheep and offered it to the Lord. Cain brought what he worked for and Abel brought by faith the best that he had to offer. You know how the story goes. Cain ended up killing Abel out of anger and jealousy. The Lord was pleased with Abel’s offering above Cain’s because Abel came to the Lord by faith and Cain by his own merit.

So, too, there is only one way to salvation and that is through Jesus. Nothing you can do on your own merit will grant you eternal life. We must receive Jesus Christ by faith and then “put on” His righteousness!

5. What do the following verses say about salvation?

   John 14:6

   Ephesians 2:8

6. What do the following verses say regarding our righteousness and the righteousness of Christ?

   Philippians 3:9

   Romans 10:1-4
7. What do the following verses say about the new man in Christ Jesus? What does he look like?

Ephesians 4:24

Colossians 3:8-11

8. In verse 12, how did this man try to enter the wedding celebration? How did he respond when questioned? Why do you think he responded this way?

9. What did the king do to this man in verse 13? Why? What does this represent?

10. In verse 14, it says, “For many are called, but few are chosen.” The Greek word for called is “kletos.” It means invited. Based on this definition and what you learned in this parable, what did Jesus mean by saying this?
ACTING on God’s Word

We see clearly through this parable that Jesus spoke of the importance of our wedding clothes. The King invited many to his banquet, and upon entering, he gave them the proper clothing. Have you RSVP’d to God with a resounding YES upon His offer to you for salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ? If not, don’t let another day go by without receiving Jesus Christ into your heart by faith. Here is a simple prayer of faith you can pray right now to Jesus and you will be forever changed and adorned in His righteousness.

God, I love you. I am a sinner in need of your forgiveness and grace. I know it is only through your Son, Jesus Christ and His death for me on the cross that I can be forgiven. I believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus gave His life, shed His blood and God raised Him from the dead so that I may be forgiven and live forever with Him. I confess to you today, that I need you and need your forgiveness for the life I’ve lived and the choices I’ve made. I can't live a life worthy of you, apart from you and I desire to obey you and give you full access to my life, that you would be my Lord and Savior. Please come into my heart and life and make me new, transforming me into your image. May all I do from this moment forth, bring you glory and honor. Thank you, Jesus for saving me. Amen.

Precious sister, if you prayed that prayer for the first time, please tell someone of the life-changing choice you chose today through Jesus Christ. You can tell your Pastor, one of the teachers or your small group leader, but please share your wonderful news with another believer so they can come alongside you and support you. Praise God, you are now forever in the Kingdom of God! Welcome to the family.

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9-10

For those of you who have already made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, how does your everyday life and choices reflect Jesus Christ and His righteousness? What do your outer garments reflect? How have your “garments” changed over the years? What areas is God calling you to “put off” and “put on” in its place?
DELIGHTING in God’s Word

Praise God today for the beautiful, holy and royal clothes that He adorns us with when we accept His invitation, receive Him into our hearts and submit our lives to Him, . “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!’” Revelation 19:8-9

Close in Prayer
DAY 2: Made In The Image Of Christ

Matthew 22: Lofty Ideology Exposed

In these next few verses, the Pharisees come to Jesus with their disciples and the Herodians and ask Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar. They are attempting once again to trap Jesus and discredit Him. They are asking Jesus whether or not a Jew needed to pay the poll-tax imposed on them by the Roman Government. The basis for their trap is this: If Jesus answers “yes” they need to pay their taxes, then He truly isn’t the Messiah because God gave the land of Israel to the Jews and they should pay tribute to no one but God. If Jesus answered “no” they didn’t need to pay their taxes, then He was making Himself an enemy of Rome and He could be denounced to the Roman Government. In their minds, they had Jesus at every turn. Jesus is going to use these next few verses to instruct us as to our spiritual responsibilities as well as our political responsibilities.

It is important to understand who are the Herodians. They were a Jewish party who favored the different King Herods who sat on the throne. They were political opportunists seeking to keep their party in power for selfish gain. They were considered the “party of peace at any price” to support Rome’s influence and power.

Let’s see what Jesus has to say about taxes and our responsibility before God.

RECEIVING God’s Word

Open in Prayer
Read Matthew 22:1-46
Today’s Scripture Focus: Matthew 22:15-22

EXPERIENCING God’s Word

1. In verses 15-16, how do the Pharisees, their disciples and the Herodians approach Jesus? What does this say about them?

2. What does verse 16 tell you about Jesus and His character? How is this the opposite of the Herodians?

A Roman denarius had the image of Caesar on it with the inscription, “Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the Divine Augustus.” (Bible Knowledge Commentary)
3. Look at the question they ask Jesus in verse 17. The Pharisees use the word “pay” in the NKJV. Strong’s #1325 for “Pay” is didomi and means “to give over to someone else.” Look at Jesus response to them in verse 21. He uses the word “Render” which is Strong’s #591 for apodidomi which means, “to deliver, give back, or give away for one’s own profit.” Why do you think Jesus changed the wording from their question? What was meant by doing this?

4. Can Jesus be tricked? What do we learn about Jesus’ omniscience (all-knowing nature?) from verse 18?


6. Read Romans 13:1-7. When we are submitting to our political authorities as believers, who are we ultimately submitting to? Who is in authority over all? When we pay taxes how are we honoring God?
a. What did Peter say in 1 Peter 2:17? How does this apply to today’s lesson? (Remember, Peter would have been with Jesus as He was teaching.)

7. In verse 22, why do you think the enemies of Jesus marveled at Jesus’ words?

ACTING on God’s Word

Today we learned that we are to “render to God the things that are God's, as we are rendering to our political officials, the things that are due them.” The money we use has the image of past political leaders on them, but it also says, “In God we trust.” Ultimately He is above all and in whom we put our trust.” If you are a believer of Jesus Christ, you also have the image of Christ impressed or stamped upon you. You belong to God, not to Caesar, not even to ourselves. If Christ is stamped upon your life, what should we be rendering to God? How do the things we render to God actually bring forth a profit?

In light of what God commanded each of us today regarding our taxes, if you were to honestly assess your heart’s posture toward taxes, are there any changes that need to be made so that you are “rendering what is due” in a blameless and God honoring way? Remember that when you are “rendering” it is for your profit in God’s Kingdom!
DELIGHTING in God’s Word

Lord, thank you for covering every basis for life and obedience through Your Word. Thank you for being the ultimate authority even over those who may not be acting in our best interest. You always are! What may seem like loss to us financially when we pay our taxes is really great gain for we are honoring You!

Close in Prayer

NOTES
DAY 3: Heaven And The Resurrection: Life In Him
Matthew 22: Lofty Ideology Exposed

On this day, we see the Sadducees come to Jesus trying to discredit Him and His ministry by trying to prove that there isn’t a resurrection. The Sadducees did not believe in the supernatural. They denied the existence of angels, denied bodily resurrection, and denied future punishment and rewards. They knew the first five books of the Old Testament and upheld the written law of Moses. They knew the Word of God but didn’t believe the Word of God. The Sadducees try to trap Jesus once again, by making up an outlandish and unrealistic story that they thought presented an unanswerable question. Jesus answers their question by taking them right back to the Torah, the 5 books of Moses; the books of the Bible that they claimed to know. He reveals to them their ignorance and declares He is the God of the Living, just as His word declares that those who die in Christ, will live forever. The resurrected life will be different than anything we could have here on earth.

RECEIVING God’s Word
Open in Prayer
Read: Matthew 22:1-46
Today’s Scripture Focus: Matthew 22:23-33

EXPERIENCING God’s Word
1. We learn in the beginning of verse 23 something very important regarding the Sadducees and what they believe. What is this?

2. Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10. What did the law allow for if a woman’s husband dies and he has brothers?

   a. Skip ahead to Matthew 22:28. What is the nature of the Sadducees question to Jesus? What were they trying to accomplish with this line of questioning to Jesus?
3. Look at the progression of the story they use when questioning Jesus. According to verses 24-27, what happens?

4. How does Jesus respond in verse 29? What did the Sadducees lack? Describe what is meant by both.

5. In Jesus' response, He points out our two errors in their thinking and their questioning. The first had to do with their understanding of heaven and the second with their understanding of relationships in heaven. It is interesting to note, that as Jesus answered, He used angels as an example, correcting another error of their thinking in that angels do exist! Put a check next to all the truths that Jesus pointed out in His response in verses 29-32.

- Heaven is an extension of life on earth.
- Life in the resurrection is much different than this life and has a specific order.
- Marriage isn't necessary in the heaven because there won't be death.
- Those who die will be angels when resurrected.
- Jesus said “I am the God of Abraham...,” not “I was the God of Abraham...” because He is still their God as they live on in the resurrection.

6. How did the people respond to this teaching? Why do you think they reacted this way?
7. Read Revelation 21:22-22:5. Write all that you learn about heaven from this passage.

8. As we have been learning throughout this chapter, as believers in Jesus Christ by faith, we are robed in the righteousness of Christ. Read 1 John 3:2-3. What does this passage tell us regarding our future existence in heaven? What does this “hope” cause us to do while still on earth?

ACTING on God’s Word
In this very section of your weekly study, we try to have you apply what you learned from the day’s lesson to your daily life. It is important for you to look at God’s Word and not only study it to understand God’s heart and message, but for you to see what God is trying to teach you. Today, Jesus told the Sadducees that they were ignorant of the truths that they claimed to know. They should have known the first 5 books of the Bible and what God said in them! That should have shaped their thinking and understanding. But it didn’t. There was knowledge, but no belief or understanding. How are people today like the Sadducees: Much Bible knowledge but little to no understanding or application? Have you ever found yourself in this camp? What changed?
When we don’t believe God at His Word, we often believe He lacks power to act on our behalf. Jesus told the Sadducees that they also didn’t know of the power of God, so much so, that they denied the supernatural. Have you ever questioned the power of God because you couldn’t understand something? How did God show Himself powerful on your behalf and move in the midst of your circumstances? What did you learn as a result?

DELIGHTING in God’s Word

Praise God that He is the great “I AM.” He is the God who was, who is and who is to come! The God of the living, not the dead. As a believer, this life is not the end of the road. When we die, we are immediately in the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). There is life everlasting!

Close in prayer
“The one thing I ask of the Lord - the thing I seek most - is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in his temple.” Psalm 27:4

DAY 4: Love: The Most Beautiful Garment!

Matthew 22: Lofty Ideology Exposed

Once again, we see the enemies of Christ band together in an effort to trap and silence Jesus. Psalm 2:2-3 says it plainly, “Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.’” Tirelessly, the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and Herodians plot against Jesus. This time, we see a scribe approach Him in an attempt to discredit Jesus on the Ten Commandments. Something pretty amazing happens to this man. We get a bigger picture of this in Luke’s account. Instead of pointing to just one command, Jesus responds by dividing the Ten Commandments into two core principles and summarizes the entire Mosaic Law. Jesus is more concerned with our love for Him and out of that flows our love for others. If these men had truly examined themselves, they would have seen that they had fallen miserably short of love and obedience and realized they needed a Savior. The law couldn’t save them, but Jesus, who stood in front of them could!

RECEIVING God’s Word
Open in Prayer
Read Matthew 22:1-46
Today’s Scripture Focus: Matthew 22:34-40

EXPERIENCING God’s Word
1. A scribe now comes to Jesus and asks Him a questions in verse 36. What does he ask Jesus? Why do you think he asked this question?


This was not a new question, for the scribes had been debating it for centuries. They had documented 613 commandments in the law, 248 positive and 365 negative. No person could ever hope to know and fully obey all of these commandments. So, to make it easier, the experts divided the commandments into “heavy” (important) and “light” (unimportant). A person could major on the “heavy commandments” and not worry about the trivial ones. This of course, was wrong thinking, as James tells us in James 2:10, “if you break one point, you are guilty of all.” (W. Weirsbe)
3. Jesus responds with what is referred to as the “Shema” in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 which is the basic confession of faith in Judaism and recited daily. Read it in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and write it here.

a. Why does it include a person’s heart, soul and mind? What does this represent regarding a person?


a. What does this command mean and why is it so important? Who is our neighbor?

b. What does 1 John 3:14 say regarding the love for our neighbor?

5. What is at the heart of both of these commands? When we love God above everything and everyone else, what follows in our action?
6. Jesus concluded by saying that all of the Law and Prophets are hung on these two commands: The love for God and the Love for other people. The Ten Commandments can be divided into two categories. Read them in Exodus 20 and divide them according to the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Love For God</th>
<th>Love For Other People</th>
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7. Read Romans 13:8-10. Love is the f_________ of the law. Explain this.

**ACTING on God’s Word**

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to give His life for ours that our sins may be forgiven. As we have learned, our heart needs to first be right with God and we must receive His love and grace and be born again by the Spirit. Once we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, 2 Peter 1:4 tells us “we become partakers of the divine nature.” As Jesus loves, so we shall love. H.A. Ironside said, “Love delights to serve the one loved.” Can you truly say you love the Lord with your whole being? How does your love for others reflect your love for Jesus? How are you serving those you love? Who in your life is difficult to love? Based on your learning today, what is Jesus asking of you regarding this individual and how you can love them as Jesus does?

(Use Notes Section on Following Page)
DELIGHTING in God’s Word
Memorize God’s greatest command. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37

Close in Prayer
DAY 5: Who Is Jesus To You?

Matthew 22: Lofty Ideology Exposed

This was the question that Jesus asked His 12 disciples back in Chapter 16, as they entered Caesarea Philippi. Do you remember Peter immediately jumped in with the answer! “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” As we end Matthew 22, Jesus turns the tables on the religious leaders opposing Him in an effort to point out their desperate soul condition based on their lofty ideology and self-righteousness. He asks them a question quite similar to the question He asked of His disciples. Why? Because it is a question that we all must answer. Jesus came to save us all and therefore, the question goes out to everyone without partiality or discrimination. The cross is beginning to cast a shadow over everything Jesus does. It is so close. Time is short ladies, there is a heaven, there is a resurrection, and God’s love has been poured out on us all. What are you waiting for? Who is Jesus to You?

RECEIVING God’s Word

Open in Prayer
Read: Matthew 22:1-46
Today’s Scripture Focus: Matthew 22:41-46

EXPERIENCING God’s Word

1. After answering three questions from the religious leaders, Jesus now turns to them and asks them a question concerning the identity of the Messiah. What does Jesus ask them in verse 42?

a. Why is this question so important? It is similar to the question Jesus asked of His disciples in Matthew 16:13-15. Why do you think He is asking it now?
2. How do they answer? Does their answer speak to the humanity of the Messiah or the deity of the Messiah? (Look back at Matthew 1:6)

3. Look up the following verses and describe how Jesus is identified with King David.

   Jeremiah 23:5-6

   Luke 1:31-35

4. Jesus asks them a second question in verse 43-45. Jesus asks the leaders how Jesus can be David’s Son and also David’s Lord? Jesus quotes from Psalm 110. What does Psalm 110 speak to regarding the Messiah? His humanity or His deity?

5. Let’s pull apart the wording of Psalm 110:1. The first usage of the word LORD is Strong’s #3068 which means, “Jehovah=the existing One.” It is the proper name of the one true God. The second usage of the word Lord is Strong’s #113 for adown which means “Adoni-Messiah-Master.” This is a prophetic and Messianic Psalm, which means it points to a future fulfillment when Christ comes again, as well as that of the Messiah. The enemies and the footstool are Jesus Christ’s. Let’s translate Psalm 110:1 with these new definitions, which will hopefully help you understand it more fully.

   “The (LORD) ________________ said to my(Lord) ________________,
   Sit at (My) ____________ right hand,
   Till I make (Your) ______ enemies (Your) __________ footstool.”
6. Look of the following verses and describe how Jesus is identified as Messiah and what He has done.

Acts 2:34-36
Hebrews 10:11-13

7. From the Scriptures, Jesus showed the Pharisees that He was both the Son of ______ (divine) and the Son of ____________ (Human).

8. According to verse 46, what happened with the religious opponents to Jesus after this day? Why?

ACTING on God’s Word
Do you call Jesus “Lord?” What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord of your life? What areas of your life have you withheld from Him and still lord over yourself? What sins or past pain have you allowed Satan to lord over you? Give Jesus today complete access to your heart and life. Confess before Him those areas you have determined to be “off-limits.” He can’t just be your Savior, He MUST be your Lord, as well. He isn’t a life-preserver. He is a life-changer! Give Him complete control and watch Him change the dirty clothes to clean clothes! You will be dressed for success in all that lies ahead!
DELIGHTING in God’s Word

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11

Close in Prayer