

**Study Guide**  
**The Kingdom Has Come**  
**Matthew 22:15-46**

**Big Idea:** If Jesus is God, then I can pay taxes, live forever and love freely.

1. What are the implications of the idea that Jesus is God? Does it really matter?
2. Read Matthew 22:15-22. What would it have been like to live under the oppression of Rome? What would it have been like for a person to hear, “Render to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” (Matt. 22:21)? How does knowing that Jesus is God, help you to “*be subject to governing authorities*”?
3. Read Matthew 22:23-33. What difference does it make that God is the God of the living, not the dead? What difference does it make for you to know that Jesus is alive and well?
4. Read Matthew 22:34-40. How does knowing that Jesus is God, empower you to love Him and love others? Share an example of how God has helped you to love someone freely.
5. Read Matthew 22:41-46. Jesus was stating from the Old Testament an example of the fact that Messiah is not just from a human blood line, but also seen by King David, as Adonai (God). Note that the Pharisees killed Jesus for His claim to be God (John 10:30-33; Matt. 26:63-65). What was it like for you to come to the conclusion that Jesus is God?

**Prayer Time**

1. Confess to Jesus your concerns about government. Affirm your faith in Him as the Son of God. Pray for our government.
2. Give thanks for eternal life. Tell God that you trust Him. Entrust various areas of your life to Him.
3. Admit to God that you lack the ability to love Him and others properly. Ask God to empower you to love well.

**Message Slides**

**Clash of Kingdoms**

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### I. Government and Taxes (v. 15-22)

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said. <sup>16</sup>And they \*sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and do not care what anyone thinks; for You are not partial to anyone. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what do You think? Is it permissible to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”

### I. Government and Taxes (v. 15-22) cont.

<sup>18</sup>But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show Me the coin *used* for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>And He \*said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup>They \*said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He \*said to them, “Then pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>And hearing *this*, they were amazed; and they left Him and went away.

### Romans 13:1

Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

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### II. Afterlife (v. 23-33)

<sup>23</sup>On that day *some* Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, <sup>24</sup>saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother.’ <sup>25</sup>Now there were seven brothers among us; and the first married and died, and having no children, he left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup>*It was* the same also *with* the second *brother*, and the third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup>Last of all, the woman died. <sup>28</sup>In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her *in marriage*.”

### II. Afterlife (v. 23-33) cont.

<sup>29</sup>But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, since you do not understand the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup>For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup>But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: <sup>32</sup>‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” <sup>33</sup>When the crowds heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.

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### III. Love (v. 34-40)

<sup>34</sup>But when the Pharisees heard that *Jesus* had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him: <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup>And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup>The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

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#### **IV. Jesus is God (v. 41-46)**

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” They \*said to Him, “*The son of David.*” <sup>43</sup>He \*said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, <sup>44</sup>“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies under Your feet””? <sup>45</sup>Therefore, if David calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to offer Him a word in answer, nor did anyone dare from that day *on* to ask Him any more questions.

#### **Matthew 26:63-65**

“I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have said so...” <sup>65</sup>Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need?”