

# Matthew *A New Perspective*

## 9. A New Worldview

### Matthew 22.15-40

**Aim of the Study:** To consider how Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom and an eternal perspective gives us a new perspective on life here and now.

#### To start with:

**Either:** Where is the most beautiful place you have seen/ visited? Why did you love it so much?

**Or:** How do you respond to a clear night sky? Why?

#### Engaging with the Text

This passage is a series of challenges from his enemies towards Jesus which he rebuffs by challenging their way of viewing the world.

#### Background information:

- Pharisees were religious purists from every social class who were experts in the Law of Moses and who wanted the law and traditions strictly kept.
- Herodians were the supporters of King Herod, the Roman puppet ruler, politicians.
- Sadducees were part of the priestly aristocracy who controlled temple worship and didn't believe in resurrection from the dead.

Read *Matthew 22.15-22*

1. a. What tactics do the Pharisees employ here and what is their aim?  
b. What does Jesus' response achieve? What is he challenging?

2. Jesus is redefining their perspective on who really has power - especially political and economic systems. How easy do you think we find it to keep a kingdom perspective rather than feeling controlled by those with power or wealth in our society? Why?

Read *Matthew 22.23-33*

3. What tactics do the Sadducees try to trip Jesus up?
4. a. How does Jesus' response challenge their (and our) perspective in relationships?  
b. How do you think this perspective should influence the way we conduct our relationships now?

Read *Matthew 22.34-40*

5. Finally they try to trip Jesus up with the Law of Moses. What does his response show us about what does and doesn't have eternal value in God's opinion?
6. a. How does that challenge what our society says has value?  
b. How does it challenge what we tend to think has value?
7. How might you develop the sort of perspective Jesus has on what has eternal significance, or a 'Kingdom' worldview? What practical things might help with that? (Ask people to share how their perspective has changed or grown over time).

#### Reflect and Pray:

In what areas are you struggling to have God's perspective? What situations feel hopeless or too big in your life? Spend some time asking God to transform your perspective and reveal his might and power in those things.

