

Sparring with Jesus

by Wayne Goff



When we read of the conflicts Jesus had with the religious leaders of His day and how He utterly destroyed their false positions, faulty reasoning, and pernicious schemes, I cannot help but laugh out loud. Perhaps I laugh because I see the absurdity of anyone trying to defeat logically, reasonably or scripturally the Son of God Himself! Perhaps I laugh out of sheer joy at seeing Jesus put to silence those who would lead souls astray. But, of course, it is no laughing matter. Jesus did not tolerate false teachers, false teaching, and their damnable ways!

Go back and read **Matthew 22:41-45** and see if you know the answer to the question Jesus posed to the Pharisees of His day. It is still a valuable truth today that can be used to defeat various gainsayers. Verse 46 says, *“And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”* You know why nobody asked Him anymore questions? Because they were not interested in the truth, nor in repenting of their religion which was based on human tradition rather than God’s Word! But Mark’s account adds this comment: *“And the common people heard Him gladly”* (**Mk. 12:37**).

“Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples, ‘Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation’” (**Luke 20:45-47**). Do you feel the same way about false teachers and their doctrine? BEWARE false teachers of all kinds.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves” (**Matthew 23:15**). Pretty serious stuff, don’t you think? “Twice as much a son of hell as yourselves”? Imagine what a stinging rebuke that was in the hearts and ears of those who heard Him. You know, that kind of teaching will get a Man killed! But Jesus never lost an argument. Jesus is the King of Truth (**John 18:37**).

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