

## Session 3: Teaching in the Temple – Conflict and Controversy



### Putting Yourself in the Picture

This painting by James Tissot depicts the traditional means of teaching in the Court of Gentiles. After the Temple Cleansing, Jesus continues to teach in the open where many gather to hear him.

### Question on Taxation

Read Mark 11:18 then read Matthew 22:15-22. Pharisees are a group who strictly followed Jewish law.

- What is the Pharisees' purpose in asking the question on taxes? What is Jesus' initial response?
  
- How does his final answer refocus the question? How does it address the challenges of discipleship?

### Question on the Greatest Commandment

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:28-34. Scribes were masters of Jewish theology.

- The Scribe has been listening to Jesus' teachings. What is his motivation in asking this question?
  
- What is Jesus' assessment of the Scribe? How are disciples expected to act out these commandments?

### The Generous Widow

Read Mark 12:41-44. Given the poverty of the woman, the offering is an extravagant gift.

- What does her offering say about her faith? What does our offering say about our faith?