

## Session 3 Study Guide - Risking Challenges

Moving from the cleansing to teaching in the Temple, Jesus increases his risk of being challenged and arrested. The practice of open-air teaching and discussion was common in the Court of Gentiles. During Passover many well-known teachers and rabbis gathered to exchange ideas and engage in debate of Jewish law and practice.

Read Mathew 22:15-22. The Question on Paying Taxes. (Also found in Mark 12:13-17 and Luke 20:20-26)

- Who is posing the question? What is their motivation?
- What is Jesus' first reaction? How does he answer the question?

Pages 69-72 of the text discuss the challenge facing Jesus.

- How was the question posed meant to trap Jesus?
- What is the political and religious significance of the coin Jesus requested to see?

Read Mark 12:28-34. The Greatest Commandment (Also found in Matthew 22:34-40)

- What is the scribe (lawyer) attempting to find out about Jesus teaching? Why is that important?
- Why does Jesus cite two commandments instead of one? How does that focus Jesus message then and now?

Read John 13:34 and pages 81-82 of the text. The New Commandment

- How does this 'new commandment' expand and focus the greatest commandment(s)? How do we love our neighbor?

Read Mark 12:41-44. The Generous Widow's Mite (Also Found in Luke 21:1-4)

- Jesus compares the poor widow to those who are wealthy. Could he tell the same story of us today?
- Read page 88 of the text. How would you answer the questions that the author poses?