

Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

***The Ruler who creates
the freedom of love***

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Matthew 22:34-46 – The Ruler who creates the freedom of love

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Somehow in these 2 sets of questions we find our answer to what lies ahead:

- *What does this tell us of how Jesus is coming to rescue us?*
 - *What does this tell us of how Jesus is establishing His reign on earth?*
 - *What does this tell us of how Jesus is joining the realms of Heaven & earth?*
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In Chapter 23 - Jesus unleashes a set of woes upon the Religious Leadership who miss Messiah but more importantly cause others to miss Him & He weeps over their plight

In Chapter 24 - Jesus prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple
The very place that was meant to be where Heaven & earth joined

In Chapter 25 - Jesus pours out Parable after Parable about the lateness of the hour that is upon His audience & the need to decide if Jesus is the kind of God people want

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The Q & A ends with these 2 questions:

- 1) *What is the greatest commandment?*
 - 2) *Whose Son is Messiah? i.e. Who really is Messiah & why is He coming?*
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How do these 2 questions make sense of Jesus' trial, His torture, His death?

- 1) *What are the two questions?*
 - 2) *What do they tell us of Jesus death & resurrection?*
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1) What are the two questions?

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1) What are the two questions?

a) *What is the greatest commandment?*

The Shema

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

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1) What are the two questions?

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➤ Who did they think this was going to be?

Daniel 7:13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. [14] And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

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Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be Ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

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- b) *Whose Son is Messiah? i.e. Who really is Messiah & why is He coming?*

- Who did they think this was going to be?
 - And what would the Messiah be like when He came?
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 - b) *Whose Son is Messiah? i.e. Who really is Messiah & why is He coming?*
 - Who did they think this was going to be?
 - And what would the Messiah be like when He came?
 - And what would this Messiah do?
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Matthew 22:41-46 – The Ruler who creates the freedom of love

1) What are the two questions?

- a) *What is the greatest commandment?*
- b) *Whose Son is Messiah? i.e. Who really is Messiah & why is He coming?*
 - Who did they think this was going to be?
 - And what would the Messiah be like when He came?
 - And what would this Messiah do?

Psalm 110:1 says that Messiah would:
"Sit at God's right Hand"
"Put your enemies under your feet"

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- 1) What are the two questions?
 - 2) What do these questions tell us of Jesus death & resurrection?
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- 1) What are the two questions?
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 - a) The commandments should be seen as invitation & promise
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Math. 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

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How do we free ourselves from the reality that isn't for the reality that IS?

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Modern freedom is the freedom of self-assertion

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*The question isn't how can I attain complete freedom
But rather WHICH freedom is more liberating*

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David Foster Wallace – Postmodern novelist

“In the day to day trenches of adult life there is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. & an astounding reason for choosing some sort of god or spiritual thing to worship is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money & things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life then you will never have enough.

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Worship your own body & beauty & sexual allure & you will always feel ugly & when time & age start showing you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you. Worship power & the commitment to make all your own choices] you will end up feeling weak & afraid & you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.”

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James 1:15 – “...the law that gives freedom”

John 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

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Jesus gave up His freedom so we could be truly free:

- Free to be ourselves
 - Free to recognize God for who He is & love Him back
 - & free to love others no matter what they are like
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Matthew 22:44 – The Ruler who creates the freedom of love

1) What are the two questions?

2) What do these questions tell us of Jesus death & resurrection?

- a) The commandments should be seen as invitation & promise
- b) The enthronement of Jesus means the death of our real enemy

Psalm 110 - “put under your feet”

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2) What do these questions tell us of Jesus death & resurrection?

- a) The commandments should be seen as invitation & promise
- b) The enthronement of Jesus means the death of our real enemy

Our real enemy is Sin & death:

- We commit idolatry – we swap God for something else
 - This produces Sin – the chain that binds us from being truly free & happy
 - Which produces death – just lifelessness & struggle & toil & bodies that break down over time & a world that works against us
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