

## Trick Questions

- (1) Some months of the year have 30 days and others have 31. How many months have 28 days?
- (2) On a very windy day a rooster lays an egg on top of a roof. Which side of the roof does the egg roll down?
- (3) How long did it rain after Moses entered the ark?

(Answers at the end of this lesson.)

Some trick questions, like the ones above, can be fun. Others, like the ones a teacher might put on a test, are not fun at all. Still other trick questions are asked to try to trap you into saying something that will incriminate you. As you study this lesson from Matthew 22 you will discover that three different groups of Jews tried to entangle and trap Jesus with trick questions.

In verses 1-14 Jesus told a parable about a king who made a great wedding feast for his son. Through that parable Jesus taught that since the Jews rejected Him, He would reach out to the Gentiles.

**Matt. 22:15**      What did the Pharisees want to do?

**Matt. 22:16**      Who did they send to Jesus?

The Herodians were a political party of Jews who favored Roman rule through the dynasty of the Herod family. They tried to butter Jesus up with insincere compliments.

**Matt. 22:17**      Here's their trick question: "Is it lawful to give \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_, or not?"

The Herodians favored paying Roman taxes (tribute), while the Pharisees and most other Jews did not. If He said "no" He could be accused of treason against Rome, but if He said "yes" most of the Jews would hate and reject Him.

**Matt. 22:18**      Jesus asked, "Why \_\_\_\_\_ ye me, ye \_\_\_\_\_?" He asked them to show him a piece of money.

**Matt. 22:20**      What did He ask?

**Matt. 22:21**      How did Jesus answer their trick question?

**Matt. 22:22**      What did the Herodians do?

**Matt. 22:23**      Who came to Jesus next?

The Sadducees were theological liberals who did not believe in the supernatural, such as miracles, angels, or the resurrection of the dead. In verses 24-27 they presented a hypothetical question based on the Old Testament law of levirate marriage (see Deut. 25:5-10).

**Matt. 22:28**      What was their trick question?

Their ridiculous question was designed to make Jesus look foolish.

**Matt. 22:29** Jesus said, “Ye do \_\_\_\_\_, not knowing the \_\_\_\_\_, nor the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

**Matt. 22:30** What did Jesus say about resurrected people?

Jesus reminded them that God often referred to Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Jewish patriarchs who died centuries ago physically but whose spirits were still living).

**Matt. 22:32** Jesus said, “God is not the God of the \_\_\_\_\_, but of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Matt. 22:33** How did the multitude react to Jesus’ answer?

Next, it was the Pharisees’ turn. An expert in the Law spoke up.

**Matt. 22:36** What was his trick question?

Whichever law Jesus chose as greatest, the lawyer could twist His words to make it appear He did not respect the other laws.

**Matt. 22:37** Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5, “Thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_ with all thy \_\_\_\_\_, and with all thy \_\_\_\_\_, and with all thy \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Matt. 22:39** What did He say was the second great commandment?

All the Law and the prophets (the Old Testament) hang upon those two great commandments. Next, Jesus asked them a question.

**Matt. 22:42** What did He ask?

How did they answer?

Jesus then asked another question revealing that Christ is both David’s son (fleshly descendant) and Lord (because He is God).

**Matt. 22:46** How did Jesus’ questioners respond?

**Concluding Thoughts:** The Jewish religious leaders asked Jesus cleverly crafted questions designed to entangle and entrap Him. They wanted to discredit Him and get Him to say something for which He could be arrested. Jesus successfully handled each question, leaving His questioners dumbfounded and astonished. After this experience they didn’t ask Him any more questions.

Some people today use trick questions to try to make Christians look foolish. Ask Jesus to give you discernment to recognize trick questions, and wisdom to know how to answer them.

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**Project:** Memorize **Matthew 22:37**. Read your Bible every day.

Answers: (1) All 12 months have 28 days, but 11 of them have <u>more</u> than 28. (2) Roosters don’t lay eggs. (3) Noah, not Moses, was on the ark.
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