

LOGIC CASE STUDY: LOADED QUESTIONS FROM THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

This exercise can be used before the student has completed the Logic course (as a thinking stimulant or family devotional), or afterwards for review. The purpose of this exercise is to have the student read the passages, and then reflect on them and examine the thinking that takes place on both sides of the arguments. For students who have completed the course, it is a great way to have them identify prejudices in thinking. These passages are listed from the King James Bible.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Have the student read the following passages. After each passage, have them complete the questions and thinking before going to the next passage, orally or in writing. ** are optional depending on student age.*

Matthew 12:9-13	The Withered Hand
Matthew 15:1-11	Tradition of the Elders
Matthew 16:1-4	Sign from Heaven
Matthew 19:1-9	Divorce*
Matthew 21:23-27	By What Authority
Matthew 22:15	Entangled Talk
Matthew 22:16-22	Lawful Tribute
Matthew 22:23-33	Marriage in the Resurrection*
Matthew 22:24-40	The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:41-46	Jesus Asked Them
Matthew 26:59-64	False Witnesses
Matthew 27:11-14	Thou Sayest



THINK OR WRITE ABOUT:

- What was the main question?
- What was the intended goal of the question?
- What were the key terms?
- What were the assumptions?
- What did the response reveal about their thinking?
- Why did/didn't Jesus respond to the question/statement?

KEY POINTS FOR THE TEACHER:

Matt. 12:9-13	Jesus gives them a syllogism (Lesson 33) to reach and present His conclusion.
Matt. 15:1-11	Notice that Jesus answers the question with a question, which in turn reveals the answer. Jesus points out how their Prejudice of Authority (Ls. 24) overpowered their knowledge of the commandments of God.
Matt. 16:1-4	He answered them in a round about way. The sign from Heaven was sitting right in front of them; but, they had already made the assumption in themselves that Jesus was not that sign, so they could not discern it. (Ls. 21)
Matt. 19:1-9	Jesus goes straight to the point quoting what God had already said on the matter (and, hence, was still in effect), and how that (again) they were using man's commandments to overrule God's commandments. Notice in vs. 9 Jesus mentions the only way out of marriage was in case of fornication. Again, had God already listed the result for adultery and fornication (and they knew what that was) - death (Leviticus 20:10-21)
Matt. 21:23-27	Jesus was not bound to give them an exacting answer. He answered with a question to make them (and His audience) realize that He taught with authority. Jesus deliberately asked them a question they would not answer either way - but it put them in the position He wanted them in.
Matt. 22:15	Emphasize the need to guard what we say, and what we respond to. Speech can entangle if used craftily.
Matt. 22:16-22	Key in this passage is understanding the key term (Ls. 7) "tribute." They were using the term as an idea to get Him in trouble. Separating the term from the idea, Jesus showed them, based on the term and corresponding coinage, the logical answer without getting political.
Matt. 22:23-33	Jesus answers by showing their assumption about Heaven was wrong, so their initial question was pointless, but He used the subject of the resurrection as a springboard to present them a question that showed the folly of their sect's beliefs (no resurrection vs. 23). The question was a red herring; they were not looking for an answer; but they were hoping Jesus would make a fool of Himself by attempting to answer such a petty question.
Matt. 22:24-40	The Greatest Commandment. They assumed there was only one or another, not two as one (Ls. 11).
Matt. 22:41-46	Using the synthetic method (Ls. 39), He leads them to a natural conclusion that they cannot answer.
Matt. 26:59-64	Lesson for life: Jesus never answered accusations; but, He did answer questions with bare-minimum answers.
Matt. 27:11-14	When people are determined to lie about you anyway - keep your lips closed. There can be more truth in silence.