

Motivation for Mt 22: 34-40

As we gather together for Lectio Divina today, we turn towards an exchange between Jesus & the Pharisees. This passage might be one that we have read many times before.

And yet, it seems that the Lord requires us to read it again. And again. The words of Mark Twain come to mind: "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand".

So, here and now, don't just read about this exchange, enter into it. Let us not attend only to the words on the page, but let us attend to the very encounter. Imagine the surroundings, the body language, the conversation dynamic, notice the character's motives, listen to their words. What is it about this passage that is speaking to you here and now?

It is in this reading that we find a command so potent, yet so simple. Take heed brothers & sisters, for in this gospel passage, Our Lord and King is *commanding* you and I today.