

LEARNING FROM JESUS AND HIS ANSWERS

Tribute to Caesar



θαυμάζω thaumazō

“to wonder; by impl. to admire”



But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Matthew 8:27

Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house... But when the multitudes saw it, **they marvelled, and glorified God**, which had given such power unto men.

Matthew 9:6-8

And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and **the multitudes marvelled**, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

Matthew 8:27



θαμβέω thambēō
**“to stupefy with surprise, i.e.
astound”**

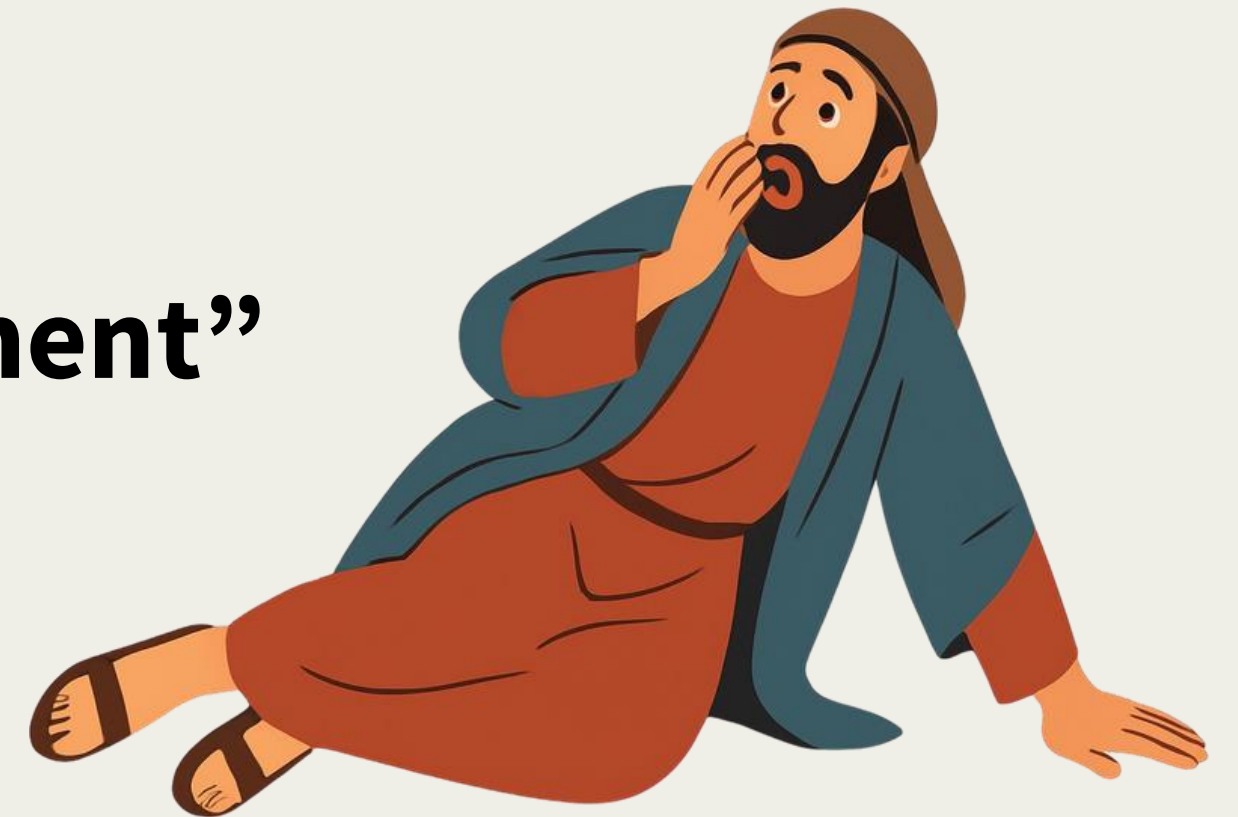
And **they were all amazed**, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

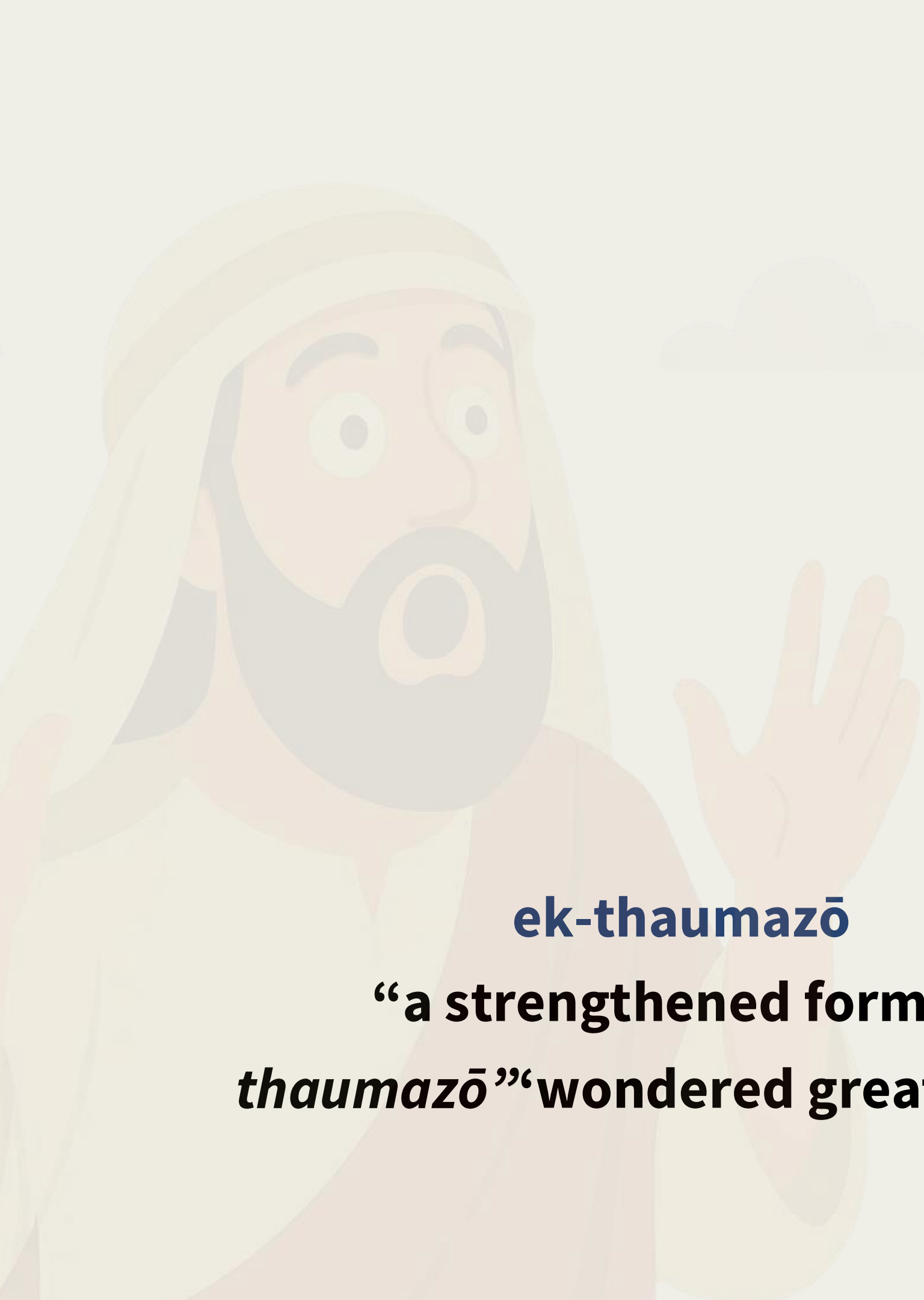
Mark 1:27

And were **beyond measure astonished**,
saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh
both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Mark 7:37

ἐκπλήσσω ěkplēssō
“ to strike with astonishment ”





And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they **marvelled at him.**

Mark 12:16-17

ek-thaumazō

**“a strengthened form of
thaumazō” “wondered greatly’ (RV)**

Tribute to Caesar?

*When they had heard these words, **they marvelled.** Mt 22:22*

Whose wife shall she be?

*And when the multitude heard this, **they were astonished** at his doctrine. Mt 22:33*

Which is the great commandment?

And no man after that durst ask him any question. Mk 12:34

θαυμάζω *thaumazō*

“to wonder; by impl. to admire”

Luke 4:22

Jesus' words were gracious (Eccl 10:12)

Jesus gave meaning to scriptures

he was not a religious leader

John 7:14-16

Jesus was not formally trained

his words were from God

he was not seeking glory

Mark 1:21-22

his teaching had authority

“not as the scribes”



List of Questions Posed to Jesus

Question	Source
“Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?” Mt 9:14; Mk 2:18; Lk 5:33	Disciples of John
“Art thou he that should come or look we for another?” Mt 11:3; Lk 7:19-20	Disciples of John
“Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days?” Mt 12:10; Lk 6:2	Pharisees
“Why speakest thou unto them in parables?” Mt 13:10	Disciples
“Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?” Mt 15:2; Mk 7:5	Pharisees/Scribes
“Show us a sign from heaven” Mt 16:1-4; Mk 8:11-13	Pharisees/Sadducees
“Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?” Mt 17:10; Mk 9:11	Disciples
“Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Mt 18:1-6	Disciples
“Lord how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?” Mt 18:21	Peter
“Lord, are there few that be saved?” Lk 13:23	“then said one”
“Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” Mt 19:3,7; Mk 10:2	Pharisees
“Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?” Jn 8:5	Scribes/Pharisees

List of Questions Posed to Jesus

Question	Source
“Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind” Jn 9:2	Disciples
“Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Lk 10:25; “Who is my neighbour?” Lk 10:29	certain lawyer
“Good master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” Mt 19:16-20; Mk 10:17; Lk 18:18	rich young ruler
“Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.” Mt 20:21; Mk 10:37	Salome/James/John
“By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?” Mt 21:23; Mk 11:28; Lk 20:2	Chief Priests/Elders
“Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? Mt 22:17; Mk 12:14-15; Lk 20:22	Pharisees/Herodians
“Therefore in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven?” Mt 22:28; Mk 12:23; Lk 20:33	Sadducees
“Master, which <i>is</i> the great commandment in the law?” (lawyer, scribe) Mt 22:35-36; Mk 12:28	Lawyer (Scribe)
“Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6	Disciples

Scenarios

doctrinal
practical
tradition
authority

Intent

sincere
accusatory
tempting
murmuring
to trap

Techniques Jesus Used

questions

illustrations

scripture

a desire to save

not proud

rebuke

redirection

direct answers

education

defer

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

Matthew 22:17





LEARN TO
READ THE
BIBLE
EFFECTIVELY

Matthew 22

¹⁵ Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel **how they might entangle him in his talk.** ¹⁶

And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. ¹⁷ Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

Lk 20:19-20 - they perceived he had spoken parables against them

Mt 26:59-61 - they were willing to do anything to condemn Jesus

Ps 38:12; 56:5-6 - their actions were predicted in the Psalms

Je 20:10 - the prophet Jeremiah faced similar opposition

Matthew 22

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Lk 20:20 - they feigned themselves as just men

Ps 55:21; 12:2-4 - a description of those who use flattering words

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‘lawful’ - used of the Mosaic law and Roman law

‘tribute’ - *kensos* “an enrollment (census); i.e. by impl. a tax”

Lk 20:22 - *phoros* “a load (as borne); i.e. fig. a tax”

‘Herodians’ - linked in other passages
Mk 3:6; 8:12

The question was one that divided opinion among the Jews. The Pharisees maintained that the payment of tribute to the Romans was an infringement of the law of Moses which said, “Thou mayest not set a stranger over thee which is not thy brother” (Deut. xvii. 15).

Another party contended (probably on the strength of Jeremiah’s letter to the captives at Babylon—Jer. xxxix.)—that it was their duty to submit to the power having authority over them in the Providence of God. This latter party were called Herodians from loyalty to Herod, who was at that time the leading representative of Roman authority among them.

The Pharisees sent a deputation to Christ composed equally of members of both factions with the calculation that an answer, “yes” or “no,” would be sure to put him wrong with one or other of them, and lead to his arrest.

Bro. Robert Roberts; Nazareth Revisited

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Put truth before self

Matthew 22

¹⁸ But **Jesus perceived their wickedness**, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? ¹⁹ Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. ²⁰ And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? ²¹ They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's

'wickedness' - hypocrisy (Matthew); craftiness (Luke)

Jn 2:25 - Jesus knew what human nature is like



Learn spiritual perception

Matthew 22

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'shew me the tribute money' - use of a pause, involves them, an illustration



**Make use of questions
and illustrations**

Matthew 22

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Ge 1:26-27 - God created man in His image and likeness

Ps 96:8-9,4-5 - "give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name"



Guide the conversation to deeper issues

Matthew 17

²⁴ And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, **Doth not your master pay tribute?** ²⁵ He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, **Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon?** of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? ²⁶ Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, **Then are the children free.**

‘prevented him’ - Jesus anticipated the question

‘then are the children free’ - ??????

‘tribute’ - *diadrachma* - the temple tax (Ex 30:15; Ne 10:32)



Applying this lesson to the situation before us, the natural seed had become strangers before God until redeemed by the half-shekel of the sanctuary, and, as noticed earlier, Levites were exempt from this impost, continuing to be redeemed by the Passover Lamb in Egypt. In this regard, the Levites were, in type, parallel with the saints in Christ, “not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold (the tribute money) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18–19)—the Passover Lamb.

Bro. Arthur Waring; The Christadelphian Magazine Vol 10 (1873); Levi - The Holy Tribe

Matthew 17

²⁷ Notwithstanding, **lest we should offend them**, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

'offend' - *skandalizo* "to entrap, i.e. trip up (fig. stumble) or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure"



Seek to save others



Guiding Principles

Make use of questions and illustrations to help others see the issue

Put truth before self interests

Learn spiritual perception

Guide the conversation to deeper issues

Seek to save others

95 The wicked have waited for me to
destroy me:

But I will consider thy testimonies....

97 O how love I thy law!

It is my meditation all the day.

98 **Thou through thy commandments
hast made me wiser than mine
enemies:**

For they are ever with me.

Psalm 119:95-98