

“Who is the Messiah?” Matthew 22:41-46, Sermon Notes
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Saving Grace Bible Church
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“Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: ⁴² “What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?” They said to Him, “*The son of David.*” ⁴³ He said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, ⁴⁴ ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET”’? ⁴⁵ “If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.” (Matt. 22:41-46 NAU)

Textual Purpose: Christ asks the Pharisees about the OT’s teaching on the Messiah

Sermonic Purpose: To demonstrate that Jesus is fully God and fully man who is worthy to be believed upon and followed

Introduction

By what authority do you do these things?

This was the question that started this whole discussion back in Matthew 21:23

This question exposed the unbelief in the religious leaders

- Their hearts were hardened towards Christ
- They would not see Him for who He was
- They would not recognize His teaching
- They would not recognize his authority

While knowing the scriptures they did not know the meaning of them

- While seeing the son of God they could not see God before them
- While hearing the son of God they could not hear His words

Unbelief is terribly destructive for it destroys a person’s spiritual senses

- It corrupts heart
- It blinds the heart
- It hardens the heart

Unbelief takes those who know better and ruins them

This is what we have been seeing in these two chapters

- The religious leaders confront Christ to determine what authority he has to do what He is doing, and then they test Him to find a fault
- We have seen unbelief ruling in their hearts and minds
- They will not see the Messiah standing right before them
- They would not hear the multitudes
- They would not see the miracles

- They would not believe the scriptures

The effect of their unbelief was manifested in their inability and unwillingness to understand the scriptures and rightly apply them to the situation they were in

- Oh these were people steeped in the scriptures
- They were well versed in the studies of Moses
- They understood religious liturgy
- They were the worship leaders
- They were the ones offering the sacrifices
- They were the ones teaching and ordaining the people to ministry

But they were also the ones who would not come under God's Word

- The more Christ answered them from the scriptures and the more they resisted Christ the more they demonstrated that they loved themselves and not God

God is often patient like this towards us. He demonstrates through His patient interaction that He is faithful

- He gives us the opportunity to repent
- He demonstrates His faithfulness time and time again by giving His Word to us and by fulfilling the scriptures

The heart filled with self-deception and unbelief will not receive the truth

- It will not accept the things of God
- A self-deceived heart makes God a liar
- Twists the scriptures to support its own desires
- It will not hear God's Word and come under it
 - Instead it comes up with an endless list of excuses and claims why it does not need to listen to the truth or rightly apply the truth
- This is how you can know if your heart is filled with unbelief, look to how you treat God's Word
 - Do you believe it and come under it or not?

This is no more evident than in the circumstances surrounding the context of our verses this morning

Because the religious leaders of Israel would not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, they would not accept His miraculous power or His teaching

This is the most critical question for you to discover the answer for: Who is Jesus Christ?

- Not, who do you want Him to be for you
- But, rather who is He

There was a willingness to accept Christ if he was a mere man

- In particular a human authority looking to rule over Israel like the great leaders of the past
- A leader like Moses
- A man they can get behind
 - A man that could use their help
 - Need their support
 - Gain their loyalty
- A man nonetheless that does not threaten their power

But Jesus did not come as a mere man

- Yes He was recognized as the Son of David
- He was honored by the people as the Son of David
- The crowds called out and gave Him the honor He deserved
- But there was more to Christ than the Son of Man

But even as the son of David the religious leaders were rejecting him

"But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant¹⁶ and said to Him, "Do You hear what these *children* are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'OUT OF THE MOUTH OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES YOU HAVE PREPARED PRAISE FOR YOURSELF?'" (Matt. 21:15-16 NAU)

Now even though they did not like to acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of David they could not refute it

- The records of the genealogies were kept in the temple
- No doubt these religious leaders combed the Temple records to validate whether or not His parents were truly part of the Davidic lineage

And you can believe for certain that if there were any questions as to the authenticity of Jesus' blood line, they would have been the first to refute it

- But they did not

There is not a single question raised as to the authenticity of Christ's relationship to David

- The people recognized him as the Son of David
- The crowds called out to Him
- The children recognized Him

But these religious leaders would not

So Christ confronts them

First with three parables exposing their unbelief and evil intentions

- When they would not recognize the ministry of God through John the Baptist then Jesus would not engage in disputing with them
- They had hardened their hearts to the facts
- He confronts them with an omniscience which called out their hearts and thoughts
 - God could tell them exactly what they were thinking and yet they would not respond
 - God regularly does this all the time as He exposes man in His word
 - One of the reasons why people hate the Word of God because its message is accurate

So Christ confronts them with

- The Parable of the Two Sons
 - The initially obstinate then compliant son
 - The initially compliant but obstinate son
 - They should have seen the good works produced by Christ's ministry and honored God but they would not
 - Their heart was hardened
- The Parable of the Landowner
 - The magnanimous landowner sets up a parcel of land to be used only to have the renters take over the land, not pay the owner, kill his servants and His son
 - The religious leaders are acting just like these wicked renters
 - They have taken what was God's and made it their own
 - They will not give honor back to God and now they are seeking to kill God's Son.
- Finally the Parable of the Marriage feast
 - Christ exposes the unbelief in the religious leaders and they are no longer invited to the marriage festival
 - Instead God is going to go out into the outer parts of the kingdom and bring in those who will be a part of the feast

In each of these parables, the religious leaders knew that Jesus was confronting them

“When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them.⁴⁶ When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.” (Matt. 21:45-46 NAU)

So once they are exposed they go into the offensive:

- They are going to public expose Christ as either an insurrectionist or a fraud
- They fail all on accounts

When they try to get him to deny Roman authority and thus not have to pay taxes. He demonstrates that honoring God and paying taxes are not in opposition with each other

- We honor God by honoring the authority we are under

They then question Jesus about the resurrection. Questioning whether there will be marriage in heaven or not

- Christ responds with another quote from God's Word and reminds them that God is the God of the living not the dead

- Again the Sadducees thought there was no way Jesus was going to answer their question. And most certainly not from the works of Moses
- And by going to the exodus account Jesus demonstrated from Moses' writings that God is the God of the living. Thus proving the resurrection
- They knew the account and the textual argument was irrefutable

Finally, a lawyer approaches Christ and asks Him about the greatest commandment

- Again Jesus goes to the Word of God and quotes from the Shema
- He goes to a familiar text to all Jews and reminds them that we are to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength
- And that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves

These lessons were taught regularly from God's Word and any God-fearing Jew who read the word of God could have drawn these conclusions easily

- This is why the lawyer responds, based on Mark's account, affirmatively
- He knew Jesus was rightly quoting the word of God

So three Parables and three tests

The End is that Jesus confronts the religious leaders, silences their ignorance, and exposes their unbelieving heart.

Now it is time for Jesus to turn the tables

- Jesus asks them a question
- And then in chapter 23 he is going to rebuke them for their unbelief

But for now Jesus turns to them to question their understanding

Body

"Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question:" (Matt. 22:41 NAU)

Here Jesus poses the question to them

- They were gathered around now
- Likely trying to figure out what to ask next
- Also likely to keep a close eye on Him to see what he is going to say or do next
- They are a stunned group unable to refute this prophet from Galilee

So Jesus turns and asks them a question from God's Word

Now it is important you see how critical God's Word is to Jesus whole operation here

- He honors the authority that God created
- Thus honoring God's design from Gen 1-3

He then honors the writings of Moses and affirms the Pentateuch when he speaks of the resurrection. He honors the book of Deuteronomy in quoting from it and the book of Leviticus

- When giving answers He goes back to the word of God

He is not appealing to traditions

- Nor schools of thought
- Nor the teachings of men
- Nor his own wisdom
- Nor his own revelation

He appeals to the Word of God

Now that Christ has demonstrated that He can handle the scriptures it is time for the religious leaders to do the same

- It is time for the men of God to demonstrate that they can answer the teaching of the scriptures

He goes to the most important question. Who is the messiah? What does the bible say about the messiah?

Who is the Messiah?

Here Jesus turns the attention to God's Word and asks the Pharisees to explain the meaning of Scripture

- The solution of which will point to the authenticity of Christ

"What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son of David.*" (Matt. 22:42NAU)

Jesus starts with the easy question

- Tell me about the messiah
- Tell me about the Christ
- Whose son is He?

They of course get the question. The Messiah is to be the Son of David.

David's Son

"The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.¹² "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him *with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,*"

- There are three ways to understand the meaning of this verse
- 1. Conditionally in the sense of if he commits sin he will be corrected. Not speaking that he will but that he could
 - KJV and NKJV translate in this way
 - But the grammar of the text does not support this view, this is the reason all other translations render the verse "when he sins"

- 2. Intermediary, in that each Son after David leading to the Messiah, who did sin was corrected
 - See for example Solomon and his documented rule and God's judgment
- 3. Intercessory, Our sins would be put on Christ and he would bear our penalty, and it would be done through the hands of men. He would be treated and viewed as if He did our transgressions. I think this is the sense of this passage
- 4. Likely a combination between points two and three. As the seed went from Generation to Generation God held him accountable. And when the Messiah came he was credited with our transgressions

"but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.¹⁶ "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."" (2 Sam. 7:11b-16 NAU)

"I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant," (Ps. 89:3 NAU)

"I will establish your seed forever And build up your throne to all generations." Selah. (Ps. 89:4 NAU)

"His descendants shall endure forever And his throne as the sun before Me.³⁷ "It shall be established forever like the moon, And the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah. (Ps. 89:36-37 NAU)

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this." (Isa. 9:6-7 NAU)

(Isa. 11:1-16 NAU) Describes the righteous rule of the Messiah

"In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.¹⁶ 'In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is *the name* by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.'" (Jer. 33:15-16 NAU)

These are a few passages demonstrating the OT witness of the Messiah

Matthew answers this question himself as he writes his gospel account:

Matthew records about Jesus

"The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:" (Matt. 1:1 NAU)

"But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 1:20 NAU)

"Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born." (Matt. 2:4 NAU)

“As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Matt. 9:27 NAU)

“All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" (Matt. 12:23 NAU)

“And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and *began* to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." (Matt. 15:22 NAU)

“And two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³¹ The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" (Matt. 20:30-31 NAU)

“The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:9 NAU)

“But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant” (Matt. 21:15 NAU)

The OT pointed to one who was to come in David's line who would be the Messiah

- This was promised by God
- It was expected by the prophets and the people
- Jesus was part of David's lineage
- The messiah was also to be a man, just as David was a man

So when Jesus asked the Pharisees whose Son would the Messiah be, they correctly answered that He was to be the son of David

That was the setup question

- That question just established the facts
- Now for the real question

“He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, ⁴⁴ "THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET ""? ⁴⁵ "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" (Matt. 22:43-45 NAU)

If the Messiah is simply a man, born from the line of David, then how is it that David calls Him Lord?

now notice how Jesus sets up this question in verse 43

Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'

- Jesus affirms dual authorship of Scripture in this verse
- First, David is the one who wrote the Psalm
- Second, he does so under the directing and influence of the Spirit
 - Some say that the Bible is unreliable because it was written by Men
 - No, it was written by Men moved by the Holy Spirit
 - It is reliable otherwise these religious leaders would simply say the text is unreliable

- Christ does not allow for this argument as He affirms the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – BTW 2 Pet 1:16-21
- If they were going to say that David made a mistake, Jesus took that option off the table
- Jesus also affirmed that this was written by David and was no doubt inspired by God

Basically men, you cannot avoid this implication without attacking the credibility of the Word of God

- To attack the credibility of the Word of God is also to attack the credibility of Christ who is the only way you can be saved
- There is salvation in no other name or in no other way
- They need to address the text and what it says

Now the question

⁴⁴ 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET "'? ⁴⁵ "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

- Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1

The Most quoted scripture in the NT Ps 110:1

"Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, ³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" (Acts 2:33-35 NAU) – Peter preaches and proclaims on the day of Pentecost

"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31 NAU)

(Acts 7:55-56 NAU) (Rom. 8:34 NAU)

"For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet." (1 Cor. 15:25 NAU)

"which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*," (Eph. 1:20 NAU)

"and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus," (Eph. 2:6 NAU)

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Col. 3:1 NAU)(Heb. 1:3 NAU) (Heb. 1:13 NAU)(Heb. 8:1 NAU)(Heb. 10:12-13 NAU)(1 Pet. 3:22 NAU)

"He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." (Rev. 3:21 NAU)

Jesus asks how is it, that David, being the father, would call his Son Lord?

- A king would not call his son or even an heir Lord
- King David would not be calling another Lord

Unless David knew that Jesus was more than a man, but God

- The only way that Jesus can be seen as greater is if he was God

Messiah is not only a man but God

"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32-33 NAU)

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." (Matt. 10:40 NAU)

"All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*." (Matt. 11:27 NAU)

"And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!" (Matt. 14:33 NAU)

"Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:16 NAU)

The pharisees are stuck

- Either they contradict the scriptures and say there is an error in them and thus discredit themselves
- OR they recognize what David recognized that the Messiah would be divine

Again Isaiah 9 revealed that the child, the Messiah would be divine

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this." (Isa. 9:6-7 NAU)

The Pharisees had simply to read the scriptures and respond to them and they would know Christ

- They would not believe God though He was standing before Him
- They would not believe God's Word though it regularly testified to the truth
- They would not see and believe the works of Christ because they were filled with unbelief

Yet will all of this unbelief Christ did not falter. He did not turn away. Instead in the face of unbelief Jesus continued to proclaim God's Word

- He continued to call out sin
- He continued to Love God

Conclusion

So now the question you must answer, who is Jesus Christ?

- Are you trying to fit Jesus into a box you can control?
- Are you minimizing the significance of Christ?
 - Either treating Him as a mere man, great and godly, but no more?
 - Or treating Him as some cosmic deity there to make your life better

Do you know Christ as both Lord and Savior?

- Do you recognize that He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
- At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

In the end the testimony of God is this:

- Jesus Christ born of a virgin
- He is from the Line of David
- He will sit on David's throne and rule forever
- He is a man like us and knows our infirmities
- He lived under the law and fulfilled all the Law's righteous demands
- He was without sin or stain and no one could bring a charge against Him
- He was a man like we are: He cried, he was hungry, he was tired, he ate and he slept

But He was also God very God

- Born of the Spirit of God
- He was Immanuel – which means God with us
- He was called the Son of God by God himself on two occasions

Matt 3: "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matt. 3:16-17 NAU)

"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (Matt. 17:5 NAU)

So now we stand before Christ and will be measured by how we treated Him

- Do you recognize Him as Lord and Savior?
- As Son of Man and Son of God?

Or are you still resisting Christ, pushing him away to be king and ruler of your own world?

If you oppose Christ you will face the terrible consequences of the religious leaders

- God's Word will condemn you as it will prove to be faithful and true
- God's character will condemn you as God will demonstrate, as He did to these spiritual leaders, that He gave you every chance to turn and believe

- God's elect will condemn you as their obedience should have encouraged you to do what was right
- God's own Son will reject you because you did not receive Him or love Him

If you do not believe in Christ believe the message of Scripture and turn to sympathetic and divine savior. For there is no better savior than Christ

- The more man rages against the Word of God the more God demonstrates the faithfulness and accuracy of His Word

Listen if you are in unbelief and are here this morning be afraid of this:

1. Like the Pharisees God was patient with you and revealed your unbelief
2. God was faithful to uphold His Word
3. God was loving enough to confront you with the truth

And if you reject Him you will have no one to blame but yourself

If you do believe in Christ, love Him with whole hearted devotion

- Love His Word as He did
- And love Him as Lord and Savior

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