

## 0 **Jesus [Our Lord] Asks a Question**

Who is the Messiah Really?

Matthew 22:41-46

### 1 **The Context of the Question**

- The people received Jesus two ways
  - As Son of David (implication of kingship)
  - As “the prophet Jesus” (as one who speaks for God and with His authority)
- Jesus teaches 1 object lesson and 3 parables
  - Fig tree – fruitfulness
  - Two sons, a landowner and a wedding
    - Failure of the Jewish leaders to bear fruit and accept the ministry of the Messiah
    - Future finality of Judgment against the leaders

### 2 **The Context of the Question**

- The Chief Priests, Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes had attacked the Lord several ways...
  - Confrontation 1, on the issue of authority (21:23)
  - Confrontation 2, on the issue of ultimate commitments (22:15-22)
  - Confrontation 3, on the issue of resurrection (22:23-33)
  - Confrontation 4, on the issue of the greatest commandment (22:34-40)

### 3 **The Question Itself**

- Immediate context:
  - Apparently the crowds (Mark 12:37) were still gathered as well as the Pharisees
    - Jesus directs his question right to the Pharisees
    - Not to play “gotcha” but to open the Scripture to them in teaching one last time about himself and who he is [His nature (duality?)]
  - Question:
    - What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?
    - Designed to elicit a specific response concerning the nature of the Messiah

### 4 **The Question Itself**

- What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?
  - Implication:
    - Nature of the Messiah “Christology”
    - This question: Whose son?
      - Specifically gets to the nature of the Messiah’s humanity

### 5 **The Question Itself**

- What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?
  - Pharisees answer:
    - The Son of David

- Matthew 21:9; John 7:42; 2 Samuel 7:12, 13; Psalm 89:3, 4
- So in so far as they answered, they were correct, but...

#### 6 A Question for Further Clarification

- Jesus asks: "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'?"
- Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
- 1<sup>st</sup>, Inspiration and authorial intent
  - David speaks (writes) according to the Spirit (cp 2 Pet 1:20-21)
  - What did David mean to communicate (in the Spirit)?

#### 7 A Question for Further Clarification

- Jesus asks: "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'?"
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>, The juxtaposition of son-ship and Lordship
    - Jesus: "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"
    - How can the Messiah be both a descendent of David and yet rule over him as "Lord, Adonai?"
    - Lord here = Messiah (the apostles picked up on this-Acts 2:34-36; 1 Cor 15:25; Heb 1:13)

#### 8 A Question for Further Clarification

- Jesus asks: "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'?"
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>, Yahweh speaks to David's Lord about his exaltation and authority
    - "sit at my right hand"
    - "until I put your enemies beneath your feet"
    - There is humiliation first and then exaltation as prophet, priest and king

#### 9 A Question for Further Clarification

- Jesus asks: "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'?"
  - 4<sup>th</sup>, It reveals (perhaps more clearly through "new covenant" eyes) the dual nature of the Christ, the mediator
    - He is fully man "the son of David"
    - He is fully God "the Lord, Adonai"

#### 10 The Silent Response

- Unfortunately, they did not have eyes to see nor ears to hear nor hearts that understood
  - Matthew 22:46 No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.
  - The commitment to their own view of the world, their hard hearts and thinking that reality had to bend to them, blinded them to the reality of the fulfillment of God's promise
  - Result: they refused to even engage with Jesus

11  **The Inescapable Conclusion**

- Jesus stood before them...
  - As the “hoped for” son of David
  - As the Lord of David who is the mediator between God and men
  - As the one name given among humanity whereby we must be saved
  - As the one who would hold all authority and power and defeat his enemies

12  **Final Thoughts**

- How important it is for us to see as God sees
- How important it is for us to embrace God’s plan and purpose
  - As set forth in Messiah Jesus
    - Centered in him
    - Accomplished in him
      - Forgiveness of sins
      - New life – the foundation of renewal and restoration of all things