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Jesus is More Than You Think; Matt 22:41-46

GPBC

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Introduction – The Pharisees have questioned Jesus. The Sadducees have questioned Jesus. They've sent others to question Jesus. Every attempt to trick or trap Jesus into saying something that could be considered treasonous or blasphemous has failed. If you're going to do away with Jesus, you're not going to outsmart Him or outwit Him in a word game. They have finally reached an end of their malicious questions, so now Jesus begins His questions for them. And it only takes one. They've made many attempts at Jesus, but it only takes one question to silence them and put an end to their questions. They set out to cause Him to stumble. They can't be seen being stumbled by Him again. So Matthew says, "no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions."

It took a while for it to sink in with this stubborn, hate-filled group that they won't defeat Jesus in a game of 20 questions. God had already determined that Jesus would be arrested by the act of a betrayer not the words of a trickster.

Jesus' question, on the other hand, was not meant to stump or embarrass the Pharisees. It was meant to get them to stop and think deeper. To consider the scriptures in which they claim to be experts. And to grasp a key doctrine they had entirely missed. Who is the Christ? He's more than you think. He's more than you imagined. While they wanted to bog Jesus down with questions about taxes and the resurrection and which commandment is the greatest, they were missing the key point altogether. So invested in trying to find a fault with Jesus in every point of Scripture about the Messiah, they missed the central point about the Messiah. They missed the grandeur of a majestic forest of glorious truth by nit-picking at the trees.

We would do well this morning to follow Jesus' point as well. He is far more than we think. He is far greater and far more glorious and wonderful and beyond our finite categories. He's more than an historical religious figure, more than the founder of Christianity, more than a spiritual guru or buddy, more than a ticket to heaven. He's more than just a man. He's God in the flesh. You see, if the Pharisees

could grasp that truth, all their other questions about what Jesus has done and what Jesus has said would be answered. And so would ours!

Is He enough? Is He sufficient? Is He worth it? Is He satisfying enough to complete my life, to fill my void, to quench my thirst, to give me peace in this life and hope for the next? Is He enough? If He is God, then the answer to all the soul-searching questions in this life find their answer in Him! Jesus is more than you think.

- I. The Right Answer But Not the Whole Truth (vv41-42)
 - a. That was absolutely the right answer. In 2 Samuel 7, God promises David that his offspring would sit on his throne, establish the kingdom, and reign forever. The Messiah will be from the line of David.
 - i. That's why Matthew in ch1 goes to great detail in laying out the genealogy of Jesus, showing how Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, descended from David.
 - b. That was absolutely the right answer but it wasn't the whole truth. Yes, the Christ will be a son of David, but that points to his humanity alone. For the Christ, who is the son of David would also be the Son of God.
 - c. The Pharisees' answer was an almost but not quite answer. You've heard the saying about almost. "Almost never works except in horseshoes and hand grenades." Almost, almost never works. Almost is almost never enough. Did you tell the truth? Almost. Did you win the game? Almost.
 - d. But when it comes to spiritual truth, almost will never suffice. If you only have half of Christ, you don't have Christ at all. He's more than you think!
 - e. Isaiah 9:6-7
 - f. There is no doubt Jesus was a man, for He walked on the road. But that's only half the truth. He was also God, for He walked on the water.
 - i. Fell asleep in the boat – calmed an angry sea
 - ii. He grew hungry – fed 5000 with one meal
 - iii. He died on the cross – for He rose from the dead on the 3rd day
 - g. If the Pharisees could only see that the Christ was more than they knew, they would have known Jesus was indeed the Christ.

- II. Unable to Answer Proves Something is Missing
 - a. Jesus is quoting Psalm 110 and in setting forth His question affirms two truths about the Scripture.
 - i. The superscriptions of the psalms are accurate.
 - ii. The inspiration of the Scripture
 - b. In other words, Jesus' is asking if the Messiah is David's son and is under Him, how is He his Lord, over Him in power? If the Messiah is David's son, coming after him, how is He already before Him in time?
 - c. And that was a question the best minds of the day, those who boast of knowing the Scripture, could not answer even though the Scripture was clear and plain. You see their inability to answer a question that was settled in Scripture demonstrated that something was missing. They couldn't see the truth. Their eyes were blinded. They didn't know all they thought they knew. Their hearts were dull.
 - d. They had invested so much time and thought, plotting against Jesus, trying to stump Him with a question – and now that Jesus stumps them with a question – it proves what was true all along – Jesus is not the one who is guilty or in need, it's them.
 - e. We too have questions without answers. Sometimes those questions reveal that we need Jesus. Why isn't this life or this person making me happy? Filling my life? There's an answer to that question. You need Jesus to fill your life.
 - i. Sometimes we have questions without answers that reveal we need a closer walk with the Lord. Why is this happening to me? Why am I suffering? There's an answer to those questions. Communion with Christ soothes the aching soul and settles the searching heart.
 - f. Have you been searching for an answer? Then it's time to come to Jesus and find it!
- III. The Whole Truth and the Whole Christ
 - a. The whole truth is that Christ is not only 100% man, He is also 100% God. He was not only born of Mary, He was born of the virgin Mary.
 - b. The Christ must be the God-man if He is to be our Savior. He must be man if He is to live a righteous life as a man, fully pleasing the Father, so that He might grant us His righteousness. He must be God if He is to satisfy the righteousness of God.

- c. He must be man, for man alone can make a sacrifice for man's sin. But He must be God to make that sacrifice final and complete.
- d. If man's sin has separated Him from God and if God's holiness spurns sin, then the only way to reconcile sinners with a holy God, is for a mediator to stand in between – a Savior, who can rescue the sinner and reconcile him to the Father.
- e. Christ, fully God and fully man – the God-man. That's why Jesus declares in John 14:6, I am the way, and the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the father except by Me.

Conclusion – David was going to have a son who would rule the nations. But David needed more than a son – he needed a Savior. Oh how David needed a Savior. David was a liar. David was an adulterer. David was a murderer. He needed more than a promise of One to rule his throne. He needed a promise of One to rule his heart. And so do we!

Where are you with Jesus today? What's your view of the Christ? Is He your stamp of approval so that you can live any way you please defining God's love as approval of sin? Is He merely a ticket to heaven with no impact on your life today? Is He just the guy they talk about at church? Or is He indeed God?

Hebrews 1:1-4