

Mark 12: “34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” But after that no one dared question Him. 35 Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? 36 For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’ 37 Therefore David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?” And the common people heard Him gladly.”

"The True Son of David"

This afternoon we are considering just a few more verses from Mark 12, and our lesson will be two-fold:

We will quickly review the importance of questions and then learn about the True Son of David!

In chapter 11, Mark recounts how Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem at His appointed time, knowing He was to be the great sacrifice for the sins of His people.

However, the apostasy of Jerusalem and its leaders is a BIG problem, which Jesus exposes in several ways: He curses the fig tree which represented the fruitless apostate Israel and then He re-inspected the Temple. There He found that the same corruption He had driven out near the beginning of His ministry.

Ø The leprosy of works-righteousness had returned and the time for the judgment of Israel had come. [mention Leviticus]

This cleansing & the parable of the wicked husbandman, hardened the hearts of the religious leaders who should have repented in sackcloth and ashes. Rather, these various religious leaders came with a series of questions designed to trap the very Messiah they should have received and worshipped!

Pastor Liberati has given us a thorough review of these questions and answers with many good applications for our lives today.

I would like to simply remind us that we should also see how important questions are when it comes times for US to give an answer for the faith within: Whether it comes while defending or sharing our faith.

When the skeptics asked Jesus by what authority He had cleansed the Temple, Jesus responds by asking them about the authority of John the Baptist which they could not honestly answer in public.

Ø Lesson learned is that we are not obligated to answer every question a skeptic can pose.

For example, if a secular scientist asks you how you could possibly think that Genesis 1 is true history, you could respond with, “first tell me how you think life came from non-life and then I will explain to you why I trust Genesis.

In telling the parable of the wicked husbandman, Jesus was clearly aiming it at those leaders: And they knew it, seeking to lay hold of Him!

Ø So, they begin to come with several questions to trick Jesus which we have studied at length.

Jesus confounds the first question by asking to see a Roman coin, reminding us that even trick questions can often lead to great teaching opportunities.

Next came the long question challenging the resurrection, where Jesus gives a direct response, saying they are just plain wrong! He then takes another teaching opportunity to explain what the Scriptures actually teach about God and the resurrection.

And finally last week, we saw one last attempt to trip up Jesus with regard to the Law by asking Him to identify the greatest commandment. Again, a direct answer from Jesus teaches what the true summary of the Law is with Two Great Commands! This encounter seemed to soften the heart of the skeptic, with Jesus saying he is not far from the Kingdom.

Ø I think this man is not unlike the man born blind in John 9 who came to know Jesus is a series of encounters.

Ø It reminds us that God often uses a series of people and/or events in bringing a soul to salvation!

The Apostle Paul reminded us about this when he wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, “6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”

Ø Often, planting a seed with a simple question or comment is all that the Lord requires of us with an individual He is drawing to Himself.

With the examples that Jesus, and later His Apostles gives us, we see the importance of answering and asking questions. They can be a vital part of our productive labor for the Kingdom.

We should, as Dr. Francis Schaeffer often reminded us, be always ready to provide honest answers to honest questions...

Ø While at the same time avoiding trick questions and traps unless we can turn even those into productive & instructive exchanges.

Ø Those religious hypocrites have thrown everything they had at Jesus with a series of tough questions or tests and Jesus has silenced them all!

Mark tells us in verse 34, that after that no man dared ask Jesus any questions!

Now Jesus turns the tables and asks them a question: “How can the Scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?”

Jesus is not asking this because He does not believe that the Scribes teach that the Christ will be the Son of David, they did in fact teach that.

What Jesus is going to do is show them, and us, how you can have the right answer for the wrong reason, and when it involves the person and work of Jesus it can be very dangerous.

All of the Jews in that day believed that the Messiah would be the Son of David...

That is what the Scriptures had promised and that was even what the crowds proclaimed during the Triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem just a few days earlier.

Matthew 21: “9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’

Hosanna in the highest!”

BUT that did not sit well with these same leaders: 15 “But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant 16 and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read,

‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have perfected praise’?”

As we often point out, Jesus is always pleased to see infants and children in the worship service because they have much to teach us with their childlike faith! But that is a topic for another day:

Ø The question before us now is why they objected to Jesus being called the Son of David?

First, we have to step back and remember where the Nation of Israel was at that time: They were under Roman rule with a puppet King!

This had caused them to misread many of the Prophecies of the OT:

Instead of expecting the Lamb of God Who would come as the suffering Savior and then be seated as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords at God's Right Hand...

They were expecting an earthly king to restore the throne of David there in Jerusalem.

Sadly, a reading that is still with us in many church circles today. ☹

Listen to just a few of the prophecies that could easily have been misread in that day, and yes, even today:

Hosea 3:4 "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek Jehovah their God and David their king. They shall fear Jehovah and His goodness in the latter days."

Ezekiel 34: "22 therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David.

He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, Jehovah, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, Jehovah, have spoken.

And finally in Jeremiah 33:

"19 And the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah, saying, 20 "Thus says Jehovah: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers. "

And if we carefully consider where Israel was at that time, one could see how they could even have misread the glorious passage from Isaiah that we celebrate with each Advent season:

Isaiah 9: "6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.”

So as Jesus asked that question, most would have thought, well that is what EVERYONE knows! However, Jesus is going to bring them back to what the Bible actually taught!

Ø Something we often need to let the Holy Spirit do in our lives !

Jesus goes on to explain what those Scribes got wrong, “Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: ‘Jehovah said to my Lord, “sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

Jesus quotes from Psalm 110, the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament and then asks them to ponder what is really being said:

“Therefore David calls Him Lord; how is He then his Son?”

The problem up until this point with the religious leaders and many in the crowds who were just along for the show, was NOT that they did not believe that God would send His Messiah as the Son of David...

It was that they misunderstood what God meant and rather wanted the Savior to come on their terms, as someone they could understand!

A new King David to make them proud, a military leader to throw off the chains of Rome, a nice Messiah who would go along with the religion they had constructed and not upset things by quoting the prophets or turning over the money changer’s tables!

Ø Some might be asking, does this exchange matter for us?

Well, the most important question we will face in our lives, the most important question to be asked down through all of history, is what do you believe about Jesus, Who the prophets called the Son of David?

What Jesus does with this quote from Psalm 110 is to show them who He really is: The eternal Son of God who has come as the promised son of David.

Ø Jesus is fully God & fully man!

These proud religious leaders were willing to have the Messiah come as a son of David in the same way they were sons of Abraham, so he would be on their level. But they were horrified by the thought of God Himself coming as the true Son of God because that would disrupt their rule and leadership.

We must remember that all the cults and heresies down through the ages have erred when they get the answer to this simple but important question wrong:

Ø Not believing that Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

**Ø Trusting Jesus as the Savior who has come to save His people from their sins
AND as the Savior with the power to save His people from their sins!**

We must remember that this is true with all of us who enjoy the blessings of God's Covenant: Our obedience will bring great blessings, but our rebellion will bring a greater condemnation!

How do we answer the question about Jesus being the Son of David?

Ø Do we believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who came to earth as a man to save His people from their sins?

If we doubt that Jesus came as a real man then we are still in our sins, because He could not have been the sacrifice for sin that was needed.

If we doubt that Jesus is truly the eternal 2nd person of the Trinity, then we are still in our sins because He would not have had the power to save us from our sins!

We must believe the very Psalm that our Savior turned to when it declares,

“Jehovah said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”

Believing this will not only give us the peace that passes all understanding because we can truly know that our sins have been forgiven...

Ø BUT it will also remind us that we serve the risen and reigning Savior and that His Bride, the Church will serve Him until all of His enemies have been subdued!

As with those Scribes, there is always the danger that we become proud of our doctrine, our positions, our churches, our programs, or even our marriages & families or anything else to the exclusion of Jesus?

Ø Are we truly seeking first the Kingdom of God in all of these areas of our lives?

We must even be careful that we are not being PROUD of the fact that we are NOT like those religious leaders!

Ø These are tough questions and ones that we must constantly ask throughout our entire lives!

Ø God will advance His Kingdom whether, as Pastor Liberati will teach us next week, we put in two pennies or two million dollars.

And so from these four short verses we have drawn out the answer to the most important question in life AND at the same time the importance of questions in our witness to the world.

From these lessons:

Ø May God grant us an ever increasing knowledge and awareness of who Jesus really is as the True Son of David.

Ø May God guard our hearts and minds against the sins of those proud Pharisees and Sadducees.

Ø And may God help us each and every day to be humble servants of Jesus... like those common people in our text who heard Jesus gladly.

Communion Meditation: Psalm 110

“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

2 The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

3 Your people shall be volunteers

In the day of Your power;

In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

5 The Lord is at Your right hand;

He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.

6 He shall judge among the nations,

He shall fill the places with dead bodies,

He shall execute the heads of many countries.

7 He shall drink of the brook by the wayside;

Therefore He shall lift up the head.”