

STONE HARBOR

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Date: August 30, 2009
Series: Who Jesus Is & Why He Matters
Section: Jesus on Mission in Jerusalem
Text: Mark 12:35-37
Topic: The Christ
Message Title: How the Christ is Both David's Son and Lord
Short Title: The Christ: David's Son and Lord

Mark 12 35-37

- [Steadman (p. 77-78) sees verse 35-37 as a remedial teaching to the scribe's "not far" position from the KOG]
- 35 And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, [He taught: this is a teaching of Jesus.]
"How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? [Track highlighted "the Christ"]
- 36 "David himself said in the Holy Spirit, [David's words were inspired by the Holy Spirit]
"THE LORD [Yahweh] SAID TO MY LORD [Adoni],
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET."
□
- 37 "David himself calls Him [the Christ] 'Lord';
so in what sense is He [the Christ] his [David's] son?"
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And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him. □

NOTE: With NASB right-justified notes from Johnny Potter

Exegetical Main Point of Passage

Beginning with His listeners understanding that the Christ would be the son of David, Jesus provokes them to a greater understanding of Himself by having them think about how the Christ could also be David's Lord.

Homiletical Idea

Provoking greater understanding of His own identity, Jesus asks how David could have understood that the Christ would be both his son and his Lord.

Subject & Compliments

How the Christ is Both David's Lord and Son Intro: Psalm 110

- The Christ is David's Lord
- The Christ is David's Son
- How Both Can Be True – How a son could be both a son and the Christ

Conclusion: Jesus effectively asked, "How can the Christ be both David's son and David's Lord at the same time?" The irony: He who posed the question is Himself the answer. Jesus Himself is both son of David and Lord=Christ. Jesus is son of David in the sense that...; and He is Son of God = Lord = Christ

Goals of Message

1. That people would know Jesus more completely by knowing Him to be the Christ who was both David's son and David's Lord;
2. and knowing Him in this way that they would be more equipped to love Him with everything they've got (Mk 12:30)

Transformation Card

This page provides an overview of the message and resources for individual and group study.

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Message Outline

How the Christ is Both David's Son and Lord

- I. The Christ is David's **Son**
- II. The Christ is David's **Lord**
- III. How **Both** Can Be True

Related Scripture

1. 2 Sam 7
2. Psalm 110
3. Mat 22:41-46
4. Acts 2:14-36

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What does "the Christ" mean?
2. In what way was the Christ to be the son of David?
3. Who was David referring to in Ps 110:1 when he said, "...my Lord...?"
4. How does knowing that the Christ is David's son and Lord help you understand who Jesus is?
5. How does knowing who Jesus is help you love God?

Memory and Meditation Verse

"How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?"

Mark 12:35b NASB

How the Christ is Both David's Son and David's Lord

INTRODUCTION

In general, understanding how two truths that appear to be mutually exclusive can both be true at the same time sharpens our understanding of each truth.

ILLUS. Computer programming as DOE: I know this is true and that is true but it is not giving me the expected results. Invariably when I'd go ask a fellow programmer for help I would explain my logic and in explaining it I would come to see something that I'd missed that was causing the unexpected results and the dilemma would be resolved.

This morning we get to listen in to Jesus teaching not a confused programmer from the DOE but a group of confused Pharisees, who although they had an arguably expert knowledge of the Scriptures, did not have an accurate read on the main plan of God. They were missing a truth which, were they able to apprehend it, would bring the ah-ha – the added clarity that would make all the difference.

To help His listeners come to know the crucial knowledge they were missing, Jesus asked a question, (Mt 22:41ff): **“What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?”** And then He refines the question bringing the dilemma to the surface: How can the Christ be both David's son and David's Lord at the same time?

Before we can deal properly with our passage, Mark 12:35-37, we need to lay the initial groundwork in our understanding of “the Christ.” What are we talking about when we speak of the Christ, who is this person, what function does the Christ serve in the plan of God?

Understanding the Christ

“Christ” defined: from the Greek word for the Hebrew “Messiah” = Adonai = anointed one, esp. as a king anointed to rule or a priest anointed to serve.

Narrow concept of the Christ held by the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus day: political deliverer who would establish national kingdom of Israel under a king descended from and like David.¹

Broader concept of the Christ permeates the Scriptures: He is the person who would restore all that was wrong and set it right, according to the intentions of God. He is:

- the seed of Gen 3:15 who would restore the KOG,
- the descendant of Abraham who would bless all the families of the earth,
- the deliverer of people from bondage and mediator of a covenant between God and man like Moses,
- the king and priest like David, but of a kingdom without boundaries and that would never end, the Kingdom of the eternal God.
- He is the one in whom God would bring about all His promises – the restoration of Sacred Space.

With these things in mind concerning the Christ, let's read our passage, Mark 12:35-37.

I. The Christ is David's Son

A. What was known about Him being someone's son?

Well attested in the Bible and well accepted in popular Jewish culture of Jesus' day.

1. Mat 22:42b – Parallel: "...whose son is He?" This Christ was expected to be the son of someone as opposed to perhaps an angelic being. He would be a real person in history.
2. He would be the seed of Adam and Eve:
 - a. Son of Seth (Gen 3:15)
 - b. Son of Abraham (Gen 12:3), Isaac and Jacob
 - c. Son of David (2 Sam 7, 1 Chron 17)
 - d. Summarized in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus -- Mat 1:1: "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah [the Christ], the son of David, the son of Abraham."

B. What was known about the Christ being the son of David?

1. God Promised David Directly that the Christ/Messiah Would Be His Son

Widely accepted Messianic promise:

- 2 Samuel 7:12b -13 – God said through Nathan the prophet to David, "...I will raise up **your descendant** after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish **his kingdom**. He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**"
- 1 Chron 17:10b – 12 "Moreover, I tell you that the Lord will build a house for you. When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that **I will set up one of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons;** and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne **forever.**"

The word of God recorded in these passages assured David that a descendant of his would rule on his throne forever. That this forever ruling son of David would be the Messiah is more explicitly revealed in time.

2. God Made General Prophetic Announcement that the Christ/Messiah Would be David's Son
Lane: "The Davidic sonship of the Messiah was a scribal tenet firmly grounded in the old prophetic literature (Is 9:2-7; 11:1-9; Jer 23:5f; 30:9; 33:15, 17, 22; Ezek 34:23f; 37:24; Hos 3:5; Amos 9:11). Prophesying after David had already died...

- **Is 9:6-7**
 - ⁶ 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.
- Jer 33:17
17 "For thus says the LORD,

‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;’

- Ezek 34:23
23 "Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David,
and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd.

The Messiah, the Christ was to be David’s son. There would be near term fulfillments of David’s promised son in the person of Solomon, but Solomon was clearly not the ultimate son of David, God’s plans for this Son this Christ, were much larger than Solomon. He may have built the temple, and had many wives and much wisdom, but he was not the Christ. That honor would fall to another son of David.

In our passage, Jesus is asking how it can be that the Christ would both be the son of David and David’s Lord at the same time? I know that my son could not be both by son and my Lord at the same time. Let’s look at how the Christ is David’s Lord and see how He could be both.

II. The Christ is David’s Lord

A. Background Facts on David

1. Chosen by God to be King of His People (1 Sam)
2. Anointed by God’s Priest for the Position of King (1 Sam)
3. Equipped for the Kingship and as a prophet (Acts 2:30) with God’s Spirit (1 Sam)
4. Placed into Kingship by God (not availing himself of “open doors”) (1 Sam)
5. Was a man after God’s own heart, distinct from other kings, even Saul
6. Proven his outstanding ability to hear and obey the voice of God

B. Who David Considered His Lord (“...my Lord...”) when he said...

Jesus citation of Psalm 110:1

**THE LORD [Yahweh] SAID TO MY LORD [Adoni],
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET."**

1. Background from the Davidic Covenant -- 2 Sam 7 and 1 Chron 17

- Forever = Perpetual nature of God’s promise of David’s rule as king informed David of God’s plans for his life that would live beyond his life.
- David was Aware that God’s Dealing with Him Extended into the “Distant Future”
 - 2 Sam 7:18-19 – Distant Future
 - Psalm 2 – “It is evident that he [David] perceived that the promise [2 Sam 7] spoke of a King to come who would reign with absolute power and authority over an exalted, unblemished and everlasting kingdom (cf. Psalm 2:1-12 with Acts 4:23-26; also Psalm 110:1-7)” Kit Culver p. 80 of Christology class notes?
- David seemed to be aware that God’s dealings with him went beyond him and his time and his kingdom and were intended by God to be prophetic, speaking of a superlative King and Kingdom. K&D p. 186 cite David’s confidence (even when he was dying and therefore unavoidably aware of the lack of completion of God’s promises in his own life (2 Sam 23:1-7)) that God’s kingdom promises would be fulfilled, as evidence that David looked beyond his life to the Messiah as the ultimate person in whom God’s promises would be fulfilled. K&D argue that such an

awareness at the end of his life increases the probability for David to have earlier (at the writing of Psalm 110) been aware of God's purpose for his life as prophetic of the ultimate Messiah.

- David understood that God's promises to him would be fulfilled in something even greater than a perpetual human kingdom where a blood descendant of his would rule the nation of Israel as their king. What is greater than a human kingdom? One that is divine.

2. Evidence David Embraced the Divinity of the Messiah who would come from his line

a. Evidence From the Davidic Covenant

The first indication that the Messiah would be the Son of God came in God's covenant with David we have already begun to look at. Again, God is speaking to David through Nathan the prophet about David's son ...

- 2 Sam 7:14a-16 – "I [God] will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me... My lovingkindness shall not depart from him... Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."
- 1 Chron 17:13-14 – "I [God] will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, ... But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever."

b. Evidence From Psalm 110

- **Adoni** = My Lord, Adonai being frequently used as a title of God
- **David Recognized Distinct Authority Tiers**: Yahweh – Adoni – David; Yahweh – Messiah -- David. Even though he was king over Israel he recognized both Yahweh and his Lord = Adoni = Messiah in authority over him. King David had a lord who was distinct from Yahweh.
- **The Highly Exalted Position of Adoni** – Seated at the right hand of God

c. Evidence from the Added Light of NT

- **Heb 1:5** – Clearly associates the 2 Sam 7:14 Father/Son decree with God the Father and Jesus His Son.
- **Acts 2** -- David, being a prophet (Acts 2:30-31) "knew" that God's promise to him in 2 Sam "looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ" i.e. the Messiah.

So we see that David regarded the Christ who would come after him as his divine Lord. Now we couple this with the first fact that David also regarded the Christ as his son and we have the conundrum that we are looking at today. Look at my family: I know that my son can't also be my Lord, especially when we understand that the person I regard as Lord is the divine Messiah of God? How can it be true of David?

III. How Both Can Be True

Mark v 37 "David himself calls Him [the Christ] 'Lord';
so in what sense is He [the Christ] his [David's] son?"
And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

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How can the Christ be both David's son and David's Lord? This is the question that if Jesus' listeners could resolve it, they would have the knowledge that would give them the ah-ha that Jesus wanted them to have – the missing piece to his understanding of God's big plan.

The only way that the Christ, can be both David's son and David's Lord is if David's son was somehow also the Son of God. As such He would certainly be David's Lord/Adonai/Christ/Messiah. K&D note: ...the conclusion to be drawn from this Psalm must have been felt by the Pharisees themselves, that **the Messiah, because the Son of David and Lord at the same time, was of human and at the same time superhuman nature...**" p. 185 This is the incarnation isn't it? The Messiah as God and as man.

But, I don't think Jesus' listeners thought that David's son would be David's Lord in sense of being divine. As we have already noted, the scribes and Pharisees, holding the popular view of the day, thought that the Christ was going to be a physical descendant of David who would restore the physical national kingdom of David and rule according to the covenant God had already made with Israel.

By drawing attention to David's calling the Christ his divine Lord, Jesus forces His listeners into that painful place of discontinuity that comes when some new truth is added to the way you've already got things figured out. You've probably experienced it yourself.

This teaching, this view of the Messiah as divine was **different**. It was there in the Scriptures but it was not the understanding they had come to hold. What would His listeners do with the thought that the Christ would be the Son of God? If they embraced it they would have to deal with its implications which would be shattering to their current understanding of truth and all that they had built on that, even their own identity.

The kingdom they thought the Messiah would be establishing with a human descendent of David was so much smaller and easier to understand than the kingdom that God was in fact establishing with a son of David who was also Son of God. **That** kingdom was not bound by space and time and the matters of this world but was unbounded and dealing with spiritual and eternal matters. What would that kingdom be like?

It would be much easier to push this new truth away, it would require way too much rethinking. But we are all pulling for His listeners aren't we?! Ponder the question! Resolve the conundrum, grasp the truth you haven't yet laid hold of! Why do we so pull for His listeners? Because we know that holding on to a deficient understanding of something as important as the identity and nature of the one God has sent to restore the world to its original design would be the epitome of foolishness. We all know that something as truly essential as the identity of Christ is the pearl of great price that we **MUST** make the effort to obtain.

Here is the kicker, Jesus, who asks Him to ponder and grab hold of this conundrum resolving truth that the Christ who is both son of David and son of God, **this Jesus is that Christ!** His listeners are conversing with the answer. Literally, the answer stands right in front of them in flesh and blood. They could reach out and touch Him who was human and divine son of David and son of God.

Jesus was poised to become the fulfillment of David's prophecy in Psalm 110:1. In just a few days He would be crucified and laid in the grave as the King of the Jews who laid down His life for His friends -- a king of a different kind of kingdom than the scribes were anticipating; a king of a much better kingdom. In what sense is it better? Well in three days after His death as He had said, He would and did rise again. And where is He now? He is seated at the right hand of God and God is placing all things in subjection to His rule, i.e., putting His enemies under His feet as Psalm 110 says God would do for David's Adonai, the Christ.

Listen to Paul: [Romans 8:34](#) – “...Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”

Listen to Peter’s convicting appeal to the Jewish community to see Jesus as the Christ the son of David as he explains the giving of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:29-36

Jesus is the Christ whom David called his Lord! Oh that all would know and embrace Him as such!

CONCLUSION

I would not be doing justice to the context if I did not set this passage in proper relation to the one that precedes it. Little if anything stands on it’s own.

Two weeks ago we looked at Jesus’ answer to “What is the foremost commandment?” and saw that it was the commandment to love God. We noted that Jesus began to explain how we are to love God by stating a truth about God. The beginning of love is knowledge of the truth that “The LORD our God is one LORD.” I argued that: Loving God begins in knowing Him; Love’s center is loving Him with everything we’ve got; and love’s end is loving our neighbors as ourselves.

But we noted that simply knowing the commandment left the scribe who brought the question to Jesus “not far” from the KOG. That “not far” is **not good** when it comes to our positional relationship to the KOG. It would be a tragedy to come close but not to be brought into the intimate communion with God which is life in His Kingdom.

What keeps someone “not far” from the KOG?

This passage argues that not knowing who the Christ is keeps someone just outside the KOG! Therefore, Jesus seeing that this scribe was “not far” offers him and his like minded Pharisees this teaching we have been considering today.

Who is the Christ? Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah! He is both David’s Son and David’s divine Lord.

God’s revelation of this truth to you and your confident assurance of this truth is the grace and faith by which you may enter into the KOG!

Know today that God has sent His beloved Son to be your Messiah, the Christ, promised from the very beginning of time, the anointed one who would right all that you know in your heart of hearts is wrong with this world and with yourself. This Messiah, this Christ was portrayed in David, promised to be a son in David’s line and fulfilled in Jesus. Know this truth! Better know this Jesus!

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Endnotes

ⁱ Lane: "...general expectation of a restored kingdom. Popular hopes, heightened by the celebration of redemption in the festival season, found expression in the pilgrim chant, "Blessed be the kingdom of our father David which is coming" (Ch. 11:10) The conviction that **national deliverance** would be achieved under Davidic leadership was an integral element of both scribal and sectarian piety, and the matter of the fulfillment of the divine promise to David (II Sam. 7:11-16) was in the air." p. 435