

Jesus - David's Son And Lord!

Matthew 22:34-46

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The events of our text take place on Tuesday of Holy Week. On that Thursday evening, Jesus will institute the Lord's Supper, go out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and the Jewish leaders will come out and arrest Him. On Friday, He will be crucified.

At this point in the earthly life of Jesus, the Pharisees and the Sadducees were questioning Jesus at every opportunity. These two groups were leaders in the religious community who had some minor disagreements on a couple issues, but Jesus was a common enemy. Both groups wanted to silence Jesus.

They did not want Jesus' teachings to abound. They believed that He was an enemy of their entire way of life, that they would lose earthly power and authority, as the Romans would come in to squelch what they believed Jesus was doing.

Jesus, on His part, has a goal as well. His desire is to bring these men, those who hate Him and want to discredit Him, to faith. He wants them to become believers.

That brings us to our text for today. First, Jesus summarizes both tables of the Law. To love God is to believe and trust in God. To love our neighbor, is to do for them what we would desire them to do for us. This is the truth of God's Word.

Jesus also desires them to understand the truth about who He is, and His relationship to them as God's promised Messiah. So, He asks, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" These are teachers in the church. Their task is to point the people of God forward to the coming of God's anointed One, the Messiah, God's Christ. So, here He is in their midst. In fact, only be three days later He will be asked point blank by the High priest, Caiaphas, "I adjure you by the living God, tells us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

You remember what happened? Jesus answered in the affirmative. In response, the Caiaphas called him a blasphemer and tore his clothes. This was the death knell for Jesus. This was the final straw that led them to have Christ crucified.

Jesus knew this was coming in His life, but not in today's text. Jesus knew that the fullness of time had not quite yet come. He desires them to have faith and trust in God, in other words, in Him. So, Jesus questions them about God's Christ. "What do you think about the Christ? Who's Son is He?"

"The son of David," they respond.

This response reveals the problem that the Pharisees, and all the church leaders of that day had , they were caught up in their worldly possessions. Messiah, God's anointed was to come to bring Israel back to earthly glory. They wanted David's Son to return in order to bring release from Roman rule. They wanted the Christ, so they could keep their positions and authority. While they were religious leaders, they liked their political positions. They liked that they were leaders with earthly power.

Jesus breaks in on their thinking. "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord... If then David calls Him Lord, how is he his son?"

And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Did they not get the question? Did they not know that the Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity? Did they not remember that the Christ would be true man, born of a virgin? This is all Old Testament stuff and they were Old Testament scholars. Christ must also be true God in order to be Savior of the world.

Jesus had been proclaiming this to them, it is not a new lesson. He does not explain because He knows they know the answer, they are simply trying to deny it.

These church leaders were too engrossed in their earthly life. They wanted earthly glory. Pharisees talked the faith. Sadducees talked the faith. But there was very little living of it. They had forgotten that the reality of keeping God's law was found in love – in loving and trusting God above all things – in loving their neighbor as themselves. They wanted God in their lives on their terms, they wanted their version of God, and God's Christ.

Christ is David's Son and also His Lord. The Jewish leadership played lord themselves. They lorded it over everybody, but they themselves had no love for others. They told others how to live, but lived just the opposite. As Jesus said, they were white-washed tombs. They looked good to the world, but inside they were full of dead men's bones.

David was king, yet humbled himself before Christ. He submitted to God's authority. When His sin was pointed out, he fell to his knees in repentance, before His Lord.

Who is Christ to you? Is He your Lord? True man? Yes! True God? Well, I am not sure about that. If He is true God, then we really need to worship Him. We really need to be obedient to Him.

Christ's Lordship over you is to mean something. It means that Christ's teaching rules your life. You desire to keep the Law of the Lord and meditate upon it day and night.

If Christ is your Lord, you realize that while you may be forced to live in the world, you are not of the world. It means that you are not conformed to the world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind and the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12.1-2) Or are you in love with the world? You like power and prestige? You like the comforts of this life? You worship the good things in life?

I ask you, are you honest about your life in Christ? Does the rest of the world see you as different? Do you live out your faith in all things and in all ways? Are you conformed to the world, or transformed in submission to Christ's Lordship?

Too often you and I are a hindrance to the Gospel of Christ. Others know we are Christians, see how Christ is Lord in our life, and wonder, "Why would I want to be like them?"

Is there growth of love in your life?

Thankfully, Christ is not only David's Lord, but also his son. Christ was born of a virgin named Mary, a descendant of David. As Lord, Christ is God's Son. As David's Son, Christ takes on human flesh. Both are necessary. Jesus is not only David's Son, but God's Son? This is incredible! Jesus is both True man and True God.

Enfleshed God, Christ submits perfectly to the Lordship of His Father. He loved perfectly, even as he loved his enemies, even those in today's text. He desires them to come to the knowledge of the truth.

This is why God's Christ was both true man and true God – David's son and Lord. He did so to take into His perfect flesh, David's sin. Christ took into His own flesh your sins, baptized into them in the Jordan river. And Christ, your loving Lord carried those sins in His flesh to the cross. There, He crucifies your sins in His own flesh, suffering and dying for them.

Upon the cross, He purchased forgiveness for your failures to let Him be Lord of your life. Upon the cross He forgives your love and trust in worldly things, for wanting God on your terms, not His.

Jesus, David's son and Lord, having walked more than a mile in your shoes, knows your human condition and died to free you from it.

This is the Christ into whom you and I have been baptized. It isn't about earthly glory or wealth or power. It is about the love of God in Christ Jesus for you. Your new life is found and given to you in Christ Jesus, so that you might live a new life, now and forevermore in Him.

Jesus - David's Son and Lord. David, upon bended knee, confessed his Son as Lord and Savior, confessing his sin and trusting in Him for forgiveness.

You come into God's house today. You confess Christ as true man, son of David, and true God, your Savior from sin. He gave His life that you might have life. He gives you to eat and drink of His precious body and blood, that you might have forgiveness of sins and that you might be strengthened in faith to love one another.

Luther understood this great truth about Christ. You know it as well. That's why we confess the 2nd Article of the Creed, and believe Luther's explanation of it.

I cannot speak for you, but...

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.