

Whose Son is the Messiah? (Mark 12:35-40) Café Church - 14-May-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you
And a sermon outline
And some questions
Let me pray first...

Intro

So far in chapter 12
Jesus has been asked some curly questions -
From the Pharisees and Herodians - as to whether people should pay the Emperor
Caesar taxes or not (Mark 12:13-17)
Then a question from the Sadducees who challenged Him about the resurrection
(Mark 12:18-27)
Then last week a question from a Teacher of the Law about what the greatest
commandment was? (Mark 12:28-34)
Jesus has so far silenced them all
Because He's smarter than them all!
He's God!

NOW Jesus asks a question of His own in verse 35 - as He is teaching in the Temple
Courts?

Before we look at the question though, we need to understand the word
[\[Powerpoint 1-Messiah/Christ\]](#)

Messiah - in verse 35
Depending on the version of the Bible you're looking at
V35 will use Messiah or Christ

Messiah is Hebrew
Christ comes from the Greek word Christos
Both Messiah and Christos mean the Anointed One
They are interchangeable!

So Messiah and Christ are not a NAME - they are a TITLE
Today we might refer to Jesus Christ - but actually it should be
JESUS THE CHRIST

The reason for this title is that in ancient times when a man was made king - he was anointed with oil -
So when the Bible talks about Messiah or Christ
It means GOD'S Anointed King - the Great One who is to come from God to save His people!

The Question?

So when Jesus asks His question in v35

Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David?
[Powerpoint 2- Question]

So what Jesus is asking is

How can the teachers of the law say

God's Anointed King who is coming be King David's son?

The argument Jesus puts forward is to quote from Psalm 110 (one of most quoted psalms - quoted or alluded to 33 times in NT)

Psalm 110 verse 1 says:

The LORD says to my lord:

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

The Jews believed this psalm was referring to the coming Messiah

So in this verse King David refers to this coming Messiah as his Lord (he calls Him 'my lord')

How asks Jesus if the Messiah is the son of David, can David address him with the title of Lord?

We also have to realize that the term 'Son of David' was another title for the Messiah - and one of the most common titles for the Messiah

The Jews of all ages looked forward to a time when the God sent Messiah would come from the family line of King David (See Isaiah 9:2-7; 11:1-9; Jeremiah 23:5ff; 33:14-18; Ezek 34:23; 37:24; Psalm 89:20)

Jesus was often addressed by this title (See Mark 10:47)

Even the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke - show Jesus is from the family line of David

[Illustration - Paul son of Patrick, Son of Charlie)

He is Lord!

What Jesus is doing here

[Powerpoint 3-Jesus doing]

He's not denying that the Messiah IS the Son of David

Nor is He saying that He Himself is not the Son of David

What He is saying is that - Yes He is the Son of David - and far far more than that, not only David's Son but David's Lord!

The trouble was - the title Son of David

Had got interpreted over the years as being connected to the idea that the Messiah was a conquering military Messiah - and also connected with political and nationalistic hopes of getting rid of the Roman rule

Jesus was saying to them - the title Son of David - as it was popularly used - was quite an inadequate description of who Jesus is?

Because He is LORD

The word LORD is the regular translation for the word YHWH in the OT

Its use - should turn people's thoughts towards GOD

What Jesus was saying He is that He came - not to set up an earthly Kingdom but to actually bring people to GOD!

And to put the idea to them the Messiah is a servant of God - to bring to people the Love of God -

Love which is shown by Jesus death on the cross - to fix sin - and bring forgiveness and put people back into a proper relationship with God

And through this Love - if people believe in Jesus -

They can be part of a Kingdom that Jesus says is not of this world (John 18:36)

It's a heavenly kingdom
Which we can be part of - if we believe in Jesus
And call Him Lord - like King David did

The question is - Is Jesus our Lord?

Because if He is Lord
Then He is our master
And we are His servants
And if we are His servants - we need to serve Him
How?

By doing what He says
Lookup Luke 6:46-49

⁴⁶“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

So Jesus is Lord and we must make Him Lord of our lives and build our lives on His foundation!

No wonder the crowd in Mark 12:37 - listened to Jesus in delight!

Warning against the Teachers of the Law

Because the teachers of the Law have not taught the people like they should have Jesus then goes on in verses 38 to 40 to warn the people about the teachers of the law

[Powerpoint 4-Charges]

Jesus makes a series of charges:

1. They walked around with flowing robes. Such long robes - that no one could hurry or work in. And therefore a sign of leisured man of honour. Look up Matthew 23:5 - **Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;**
2. They loved been greeted in the market places
3. They got the front seats in the synagogues - facing the people - so no one could miss them
4. They had places of honour at banquets - place of honour - to right of host, then left, then next right, then next left. So everyone knows who is the MOST important!
5. Devouring widows houses - Teachers of law were support to have a trade to support themselves but had convinced people that they were so important and honoured - they should be supported - and they sucked in women who were widows to support them
6. Lastly their prayers were notoriously lengthy. Culturally people saw these lengthy prayers were not so much offered to God but to impress the people so that they looked holy and pious

So Jesus is basically warning about 3 things:

[Powerpoint 5-Warnings]

1. It warns against our desire to be important or prominent. Whatever position or role we take in church - yes it might be seen as a honour or privilege - but more importantly the role or position comes with a responsibility to serve God and serve the church family. The serving is far more important than the status or privilege
2. It warns against ego! When should not have an ego in church. Church should be ego-less. He should never be about US (always about God and others) - never about our selfish ambitions or our pride. We learnt this morning from James - God opposes the proud and shows favour to the humble. [Example of U3A thinking Paul was the cleaner!]
3. It warns against using our position and role in church - for self gain - like getting invites to events because of who we are at church. And we shouldn't be coming to church with the attitude - what can I get out of God and the church - but more with the attitude what can I give God and the church!

Conclusion

JESUS is our Lord and we are His humble servants!

Lookup Matt 23:12

¹²For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Q & A