

“What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He.” (Matthew 22:42)

I. Jesus Questions the Questioners

- a. The prophecies in the Old Testament are clear that the Messiah is to come from David’s lineage.
- b. The mainstream expectation in Judaism looked for a descendant of David to arise, gather the people in revolt, throw off the Roman rule, restore independence and theocracy to Israel.
- c. Jesus asked them to explain Psalm 110:1. If David calls him *Lord*, how (pōs—in what sense?) can he be his son? The Messiah is indeed David’s son (meaning lineage), but He is also David’s Lord.
- d. Jesus is trying to open their eyes to the futility of a messianic hope which does not rise beyond the human level.
- e. The Messiah is so much more than the deliverer the Jews were hoping for. Jesus wanted to make them examine their easy assumptions and inherited prejudices.

II. Whose Son, is He?

- a. The Pharisees saw the Messiah as primarily a political deliverer – a ruler of the natural world only.
- b. The Messiah had to be more than David, because He had to be more than a conqueror.
- c. It would not fulfill God’s purpose to call just another “David”, because Israel’s problem was not *Roman control*, but *heart submission*.
- d. No earthly king could restore their relationship with God.
 1. David was a famous warrior, but failed as a father.
 2. David was king, but committed adultery and murdered to cover his sin.
 3. David conquered with a sword and unified the land of Canaan.
- e. Jesus is the King of King, and Lord of Lords.
 1. He was a man that knew no sin.
 2. Jesus would conquer through words and humility, not the sword.
 3. He would unify a peaceful and spiritual kingdom.
- f. Israel’s leaders blinded their eyes to the truth and turned away from the One who came to reconcile them with God.
- g. Woe has come to the leaders of Israel, and that is the subject of chapter 23.

III. The Practical Application of God’s Word

- a. Why is knowing whose *Son* Jesus is central to the Christian faith?
- b. Every Christian should know why Jesus came both born of flesh and of God.
- c. If we water down Jesus’s life to be just a “great man”, He could not have died for our sins.
- d. No person other than Jesus Christ can bring you into relationship with our God, the Father.
- e. Never believe the person who denies the lineage, birth, life, death and resurrection. Each instance fulfills prophecy and the reason for our faith.