



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

## Jesus Asks the Leaders the Ultimate Question

MAY 26-28, 2010

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**Matthew 22:41-46** *“Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: (42) ‘What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘The son of David.’ (43) He said to them, ‘Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, (44) “THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,*

*SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,*

*UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET?”*

*(45) If David then calls Him “Lord,” how is He his son?”*

*(46) No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.”*

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“THE BATTLE LINES OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY ARE INEVITABLY DRAWN AT THE ISSUE OF JESUS’ DIVINITY. THAT IS THE ONE DOCTRINE APART FROM WHICH ALL OTHERS ARE MEANINGLESS, BECAUSE IF HE WERE NOT DIVINE HE COULD NOT BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, AND MEN WOULD HAVE NO WAY OF BECOMING RECONCILED TO GOD.” JOHN MACARTHUR

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Why were the Pharisees still gathered around Jesus Christ? Is this difficult question for the Pharisees made out of love or contempt for them? What is the ultimate point that Jesus is making with this question? Does the right answer to this question answer all the previous questions they have asked Jesus? Does Jesus validate the inspiration of Scripture here? What is the only possible answer to Jesus Christ’s question?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 2-4: MATTHEW 23:1-12 *THE CHARACTER OF LEADERS WITHOUT CHRIST*
- JUNE 9-11: MATTHEW 23:13-33 *SEVEN CURSES OF CHRIST UPON UNREPENTANT LEADERS*
- JUNE 16-18: MATTHEW 23:34-36 *PERSECUTING THE PROPHETS: THE LEGACY OF BLOOD*

Jesus is in the Temple teaching on this Tuesday, less than seventy two hours before His death on the cross. The leaders of Israel have badgered Him with four questions the day after He cleansed the Temple: 1) “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?” (Mt. 21:23); 2) “Is it lawful to give the poll-tax to Caesar or not?” (22:17); 3) “In the resurrection therefore, whose wife of the seven shall she be?” (22:28); 4) “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” (22:36). Jesus has not only avoided all of their traps, but He has answered their questions with principles that are still most valuable today in relation to authority, the responsibility of the Church to the state, our future heavenly relationships, and our most important passion in life being our love for God and others! The Pharisees are still in the presence of Christ, but their lingering is certainly not motivated by love.

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“JUST A MOMENT AGO, IN HIS SUMMARY OF THE LAW, JESUS HAD PLACED ALL THE EMPHASIS ON LOVE, AS BEING THE FULFILLMENT OF THE DECALOG. AND NOW HE IS PUTTING THIS LOVE INTO PRACTICE BY DIRECTING THE ATTENTION OF HIS AUDIENCE TO FAITH IN HIMSELF, FOR APART FROM SUCH FAITH—AND FROM THE RIGHT CONCEPTION ABOUT THE CHRIST—NO PHARISEE (OR ANYONE ELSE) CAN BE SAVED.”

WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN

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### I. THE HOSTILE GATHERING MT. 22:41-42A

The word for “gathered” regarding the Pharisees is again a passive (as in v. 34) and they continue in their blind persistence to trap Christ. This hostile huddle is plotting against their own loving Lord. They are no doubt more perplexed than ever as to what they could do to discredit and destroy Jesus. And while they are contemplating what they will do next, Jesus “asked them a question” about Himself indirectly. “What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He? Thus Jesus approaches the foundation of the hostility of these leaders.

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### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING – LEGISLATIVE OFFICE (CALL 804-683-2285 IF INTERESTED)  
THURSDAY @ 7:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – RT. 10, IRONBRIDGE SPORTS PK, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8<sup>TH</sup> & MAIN – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE RM  
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – GOLDEN CORRAL AT NORVIEW & MILITARY HWY – NEAR NORFOLK AIRPORT

# Virginia

## Jesus Asks the Leaders the Ultimate Question

“THE RIGHT ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION WOULD SOLVE THE STILL UNANSWERED PROBLEM AS TO THE NATURE OF AUTHORITY BY WHICH HE CLEANSED THE TEMPLE AND PUT FORWARD DOCTRINES WHICH TRAVERSED THE TRADITIONAL TEACHING OF THE ELDERS. HE HAD BEEN CALLED UPON TO SILENCE THOSE WHO HAD HAILED HIM AS ‘THE SON OF DAVID.’ THAT IMPLIED THAT HE OUGHT NOT TO ACCEPT SO HONORABLE A TITLE. HE POINTS OUT THAT THE TITLE GIVES HIM, NOT TOO MUCH, BUT TOO LITTLE.”

ALFRED PLUMMER

### II. THE HALF-THOUGHT RESPONSE MT. 22:42B

These leaders had convinced themselves and the nation that the “*Christ*” was a great warrior king who, as “*the son of David*,” would establish Israel above the other nations. But they had failed to carefully study their Scriptures for all that was stated regarding their Messiah. Nathan told David about what God would do in II Samuel 7:12-13 & 16, “*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. And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.*” Notice the word “*descendant*” is singular and thrice his “*throne*” is said to be “*forever*.” No mortal man can have a throne forever as a singular descendant. The only conclusion they could have acquired from this text and others was that their Messiah would not only be completely man as a “*son of David*,” but also completely God because He is said to have a “*throne*” enduring “*forever*.” But only grasping the human they respond, “*of David*.”

“YOU THINK OF HIM AS COMING IN DAVID’S LINE, BUT HE IS MORE THAN DAVID’S SON, HE IS DAVID’S LORD. ACCOUNT FOR THAT, AND . . . YOU WILL HAVE ALL YOUR POLITICAL PROBLEMS SOLVED.” G.C. MORGAN

### III. THE HONORED DEITY MT. 22:43-46

The authorities were also distressed because they knew that Jesus’ lineage from David was verifiable. Until the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70, the genealogical records of each Jew were kept there, not only to verify the priestly or Levitical records, but also to establish the qualification of nationality for all who assumed any leadership. Because no one could hold any position of responsibility among the Jews whose genealogy was not verified, then without question the authorities had carefully checked Jesus’ genealogy and discovered that His descent from David was legitimate. Otherwise, they could have simply revealed that His lineage was not from David and all would know that He could not possibly be the Messiah. It must have really worried them that His Davidic heritage could be traced through either Mary’s (Mt. 1) or Joseph’s (Lk. 3) lineage. Jesus pressed them with Scriptural logic from Psalm 110, “*He said to them, ‘Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET’? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his son?’*” The Pharisees accepted the Davidic authorship of this Psalm, that it was about the Messiah and that it was inspired Scripture. They knew that in the original Hebrew David had said that “*The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai), sit at My right hand, until I put your enemies beneath your feet.*” They also knew that for “*Adonai*” to sit at the right hand of “*Yahweh*,” would make Him equal in authority and therefore divinity. The final question proved Christ’s deity, if they would logically deduce the only possible solution. “*If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his son?*” He is called David’s son because of His promised human lineage, but He is called David’s “*Lord*” because He is God!

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are there areas of God’s Word that you find yourself hostile towards?
- 2) Have you received the truth of this most quoted passage in the New Testament that Jesus is Lord?
- 3) How do you show that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life in your work, home, community, capitol, and your thoughts?