

David's Son And David's Lord.

Mark 12:35-37.

Sunday, September 7, 2008.

I. Christ's own question: "Whose son is the Christ?"

- A. Acc. To Matthew's gospel this question preceded the question mentioned in our text: "How can the scribes say that Christ is the son of David?" See Matt. 22:41.
- B. Mark's question seems to have been posed to the common people standing around for the encounter and with stating that the common people heard Him gladly.
- C. Matthew records how the Lord posed this question to the Pharisees. No contradiction is implied as the Lord probably spoke to both separately.

II. David's Son and David's Lord.

- A. The Pharisees had readily answered that the Christ would be the son of David.
 - 1. As David's son, He would be David's inferior for the fathers are held to be superior and more honorable than the children.
 - 2. Indeed would the Christ make Himself less than David as He emptied and humbled Himself, and sacrificed Himself as the Lamb of God for sin.
- B. The Lord points out to the Pharisees that there is a problem.
 - 1. He points them to Psalm 110:1.
Here JHWH - Jehovah, is addressing David's Adonai - Master, Owner, Lord. God is addressing the Mediator to sit at His right hand.
If the Christ, the Mediator, is David's son, and therefore his inferior, then why does David call Him Lord?
 - 2. Indeed is the Christ David's Lord and therefore his superior for after His humiliation He was exalted in the resurrection and ascension and in His being seated at the right hand of the Father; in His having received all power in heaven and on earth; and in his having received a Name above every Name.
 - 3. According to His human nature He made Himself lower than David, but according to His divine nature He was David's superior and Lord.
 - 4. So Isaiah 11:1,10 is fulfilled where the Christ is depicted as a branch and a rod sprouting from the trunk of Jesse, but also as the root of Jesse.
So also in Rev. 22:16 where He is the root and offspring of David.

III. Why does the Lord bring this up at this time?

- A. This is the final encounter of the Lord with the Jewish leaders prior to His suffering. It is also the final public teaching time to the people in the temple. It was Tuesday probably late in the day; (a lot had already happened this day which began in Ch. 11:20.) Nothing is recorded as to what the Lord did on Wednesday, and on Thursday the last supper was prepared and celebrated.
- B. It was just two days since the crowd had openly acclaimed Him as the Son of David in the triumphal entry; much to the Pharisees dismay.
- C. As such the Lord sets before them this weighty matter to consider.
David's son would come according to two natures. He would be David's son and therefore David's inferior. He would also come as David's Lord and therefore superior. This made it possible that the Pharisees were dealing with

the Messiah in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such it is a warning to them; a word of caution.

- D. There is another reason which connects this question of the Lord with the prior encounter with the scribe.
1. The Scribe had tested the knowledge of Jesus by asking Him the hardest question which no theologian of that day had been able to answer: "What is the religious principle or law from which the whole revelation of God does flow, and in which it is all bound together?"
 2. The Lord had answered wisely and truthfully and the scribe was delighted.
 3. The Lord had said to the scribe that he was not far from the kingdom.
 4. By embracing the Lord Jesus and His wisdom the scribe embraced the grace of God offered to us in Christ. Grace received and obeyed always brings more grace. Light obeyed brings more light.
 5. No doubt this scribe was standing around with either the Pharisees or the crowd of common people and heard these words. In these words the Scribe was given a fuller understanding with regard to the Person and the wisdom of the Lord Jesus. He was not only David's son, but also David's Lord. Not only the Son of Man, but also the Son of God.

Application:

Here is a directive for us as well as a warning:

Growing in grace is always a matter of humbly beginning to follow God's directives for our lives. Owning God's truth for ourselves; not only intellectually, but in deed. Seek the Lord with the intent of doing what He says. Call upon Him with the same intentions, and you will soon find Him. Grace obeyed brings more grace and light received brings more light. By way of warning the converse is also true; Grace rejected brings greater condemnation in the form of a hard heart, and light rejected brings greater darkness.

IV. The common people heard Him gladly.

- A. We should be glad for this comment. The Lord's silencing the religious leaders of the day did not seem to bother the common people. They gladly heard Him. They enjoyed sitting under His ministry, and that was a good thing.

- B. We should not make too much of this comment.

This was the crowd that had hailed Him as the son of David two days ago; here they sit gladly under His gracious teaching, and on Friday morning they would shout, "crucify Him, away with Him!"

Sitting gladly under a person's ministry is not the same as being spiritually benefited by it.

They were like a leaf on a tree; blown which ever way the wind was blowing.

1. Remember Herod who gladly heard John the Baptist, yet beheaded him.
2. Ezekiel was gladly heard by the people of his day. "You are to them as a lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument: for they hear your word, but they do not do them." Ezek. 33:32. Be careful how you listen, and with what intentions you listen!