

CONFRONTED WITH THE TRUTH (Mk. 12:35-37)

Mk. 12:35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? What do the scribes mean when they say the Messiah is the Son of David? ... Is the Messiah greater than David, or inferior to David ... and Jesus quoted to them from Ps. 110:1, **The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.**

Psalm 110 was understood by the Jewish teachers to be a Messianic Psalm which prophesied concerning the Messiah. They taught King David was the superior to the Messiah because the Messiah would be the *son* of David. ... And the Son of David (the Messiah) would re-enact the glory days of King David's reign. ... King David was the 'prototype', - the model, - for the Messiah. King David was the greatest ... and the Messiah would 'follow'. That is how the rabbis taught.

But here is the problem Jesus pointed out to the people **36 David himself said by the Holy Ghost** ... Jesus emphasised how this was a statement inspired by God Himself ... **Ps. 110:1 The LORD [YHWH] said to my Lord [Adonai], Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.** ... David, the great King of Israel, who had no equal, spoke about the Lord Jehovah, - saying to *David's* Lord, *Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Well, we can clearly identify Who Jehovah is, - the first LORD in the verse, - ... and we can also identify the 'my' of *my Lord*, for that is David who wrote the psalm ... But Who is the second mention of the Lord referring to? ... The religious leaders were 'stumped', - they had never been asked that question before, and they didn't know the answer!

Jesus is dealing with the issue of the Messiah. ... This was a crucial subject for it was 'going around' Jesus was the Messiah. ... But the problem was, the identity of the Messiah had become clouded over the years due to the various notions propagated by the rabbis. And that was behind the reason Jesus took the initiative and asked this question, **35 How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David?** ... I wonder if He singled out the scribes because one of them wasn't far from the Kingdom (v.34)?

The scribes, and the Pharisees believed, - and rightly so, - the Messiah would be the son, - i.e. from the lineage, - of David ... However, they erred in that they considered David as the *primary* figure, and the Messiah, - the *son* of David a lesser figure ... Basically, they didn't believe they could get another such good a king as David! He was the best! Nobody could match him which meant the Messiah would be in David's 'shadow'. Yes, the Messiah would become a great

King and a mighty Leader ... but King David was ‘the main man’, and the Messiah was merely ‘the *son* of David’.

The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus in this role, as the son of David. If they had gone to the rooms in the temple where all the records were kept, they would have seen, - on Mary’s side and on Joseph’s side, - how Jesus came from the same genealogical line which is traced to King David ... but they didn’t do that!

... Judaism recognises there was a Jesus, but that He was simply one of many who aspired after being a Messiah. He wasn’t though, - they say, - because He did not fulfil the values they had for Him to fulfil, and neither did He succeed in upholding the covenant of David. Instead, the true Messiah will be descended from the line of King David, - he will be a human being, not a half-god or god in some strange sense. He will be a King and He will be a Saviour in the sense He will liberate (save) His nation and raise them to the highest among the nations. ... Such a sense of Him going to a cross and dying for sinners has no place in their consideration of a Messiah. ... But He *will* be the Saviour/King of the Jewish nation ... a great military and political leader who will make righteous decisions, well-versed in Jewish law and an inspiration. He will build the Third Temple in Jerusalem. He will bring world peace. All mankind will respect and honour him. ... No wonder the Jews in Jesus’ time were so excited about the Messiah, and it is no wonder either, - with such expectations, - the Jewish authorities didn’t accept Jesus as Messiah. He didn’t ‘tick all the boxes’.

The scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees had made up their mind Jesus was not the Messiah! They were ‘up against it’ though, for many of the people were getting convinced! ... No man spoke like Jesus. No man performed miracles like Jesus. Not even the Pharisees taught as He taught ... so, they had to fight hard against the evidence ... first the Pharisees and the Herodians (Mk. 12:13-17), next the Sadducees (v. 18-27), and then the scribe (v. 28-34). The means at their disposal were ‘wearing out’. They couldn’t get rid of Him, as He taught in the temple.

And it was at this point Jesus had asked the question, ³⁵ [How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David?](#) ... The same conversation is expanded in Mt. 22, ⁴¹ [Jesus asked them,](#) ⁴² [Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.](#) ⁴³ [He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,](#) ⁴⁴ [The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?](#) ⁴⁵ [If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?](#) ⁴⁶ [And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions. ... Jesus said to them, You can identify Who the LORD is, and you can see the ‘my’ refers to David, but Who is the Lord speaking to,](#) ⁴⁴ [The LORD said unto my Lord ... Who’s that?! ... It has to be the Messiah!](#)

So Who is the Messiah? ... He's 'drawing' them in, and they cannot escape from the direction He is leading them. He was trying to show them they had the Messiah and the Son of David the wrong way round for the Messiah is *greater* than David ... If they would pay better attention to the writings in the Old Testament, they would see *that* in the Messianic Psalms and in the Prophets. In the Davidic covenant, - with which they would have been very familiar, God promised David the Messiah, **II Sam. 7:12** when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee ... and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever ... **16** And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. ... That's a reign which will exceed King David's! ... The scribes and Pharisees should have known that ... and it is what the disciples had come to realise at Caesarea Philippi, when Peter announced, **Mt. 16:16** Thou art the Christ [*Messiah*], the Son of the living God.

But here lay another problem for the Jewish rulers. If they recognised Jesus to be the Messiah, according to Ps. 110:1, they would have to follow the example of King David and acknowledge the Messiah as Lord ... as God! *That's* what their Old Testament Scriptures taught, **Mk. 12:36** For David himself *said by the Holy Ghost*, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand ... That's a direct quote! ... The Father is speaking to His Son, - Who is David's Lord, the One Who will be exalted to sit at the Father's right hand ... How were they going to answer *this*?! They were 'in a hole'!

As far as the ordinary people were concerned, they were ready to accept Jesus as Messiah ... and this can be seen already for on the way up to Jerusalem, many of the crowds greeted Jesus, calling Him Messiah, or the 'Son of David', - the terms are synonymous for they mean the same thing, **Mt. 9:27** when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us ... **12:23** And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? ... **15:22** And, behold, a woman of Canaan ... cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David ... **20:30** And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, ... cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. **31** And the multitude rebuked them ... but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David ... **21:9** And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David ... The people were willing to acknowledge it, but their religious leaders were not.

No matter how clear the evidence, their stubbornness and outright contempt for Jesus refused to allow them to believe in Him. They *could* have, but they *would* not! They would not accept the plain facts staring them in the face.

The Christian faith stands or falls on Who you believe Jesus Christ is. ... As some would display Him, He is on a cross, His hands outstretched and nailed, a morose figure, His head drooping in defeat, alone. But that is not the Bible's Jesus ... that is not the Son of God for the Jesus Christ of the Bible is not on a cross anymore, but He is seated upon a throne. He is high and lifted up, and at this moment He is enjoying the praise of the Redeemed in Heaven.

Others would say He was a good man who tried His best against all the empty and vain authorities of His day, and an example for us to keep on 'fighting the inequalities' to make life better for the 'under-privileged. ... No that is not why Jesus came either, for He said His Kingdom was not of this world ... and He didn't get involved in the political or social affairs ... so that is not why He came. ... He came with a far greater work to do because His work was not confined with issues in this world which will never change as long as men and women push *their* own agendas, but He was concerned with the salvation of men and women, boys and girls in preparation for eternity.

Did He come with a message of love ... love is what matters ... love everybody and life will be great? It doesn't matter what you believe or who you believe in, as long as 'love unites us all'! ... Here is what Jesus said about that, **Mt. 10:34** **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.** ... What is love without the Lord Jesus? True love is the love found only in Him, with which He shares with His people ... and that is the kind of love the world needs ... not some superficial imitation.

Was Jesus another one of those religious leaders, - like Buddha, and Mohammed, - who would attract certain types of followers but who, - 'at the end of the day', - were all the same? ... All roads lead to God? ... Once again, no, for Jesus Himself said, **Jn. 14:6** **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** ... That excludes *every* other 'way'. There is no other way to Heaven than by believing in Jesus Christ to be saved ... for Him to take away your sin, to trust and believe in Him alone.

Then there are also those who think, it's not even about religion, or a religious figure ... It's about how you make your own way in this life which hopefully will get you into Heaven. If that is the case, then we could all be wasting our time ... for what *if* all our calculations to get into Heaven are dependent on good works, and we find we haven't done enough ... what do you do then? There's nothing, because it's too late.

As Jesus stood in front of these people in the temple ... many were listening to Him attentively for He drew a crowd. But in the crowd were those intent on *not* hearing. Nothing He could say would change their minds and their hearts ... such was the barrier of unbelief to God's grace that nothing could penetrate, except the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notice how [the common people heard him gladly \(v.37\)](#). That could mean His words had an impact on their souls, or it could also mean He was little more than entertainment for them. ... And those religious leaders ... what more can we say about them? ... If the religious leaders and the people had accepted Jesus as Messiah, - instead of rejecting Him, - there would have been a revival in Jerusalem at that Passover season, - it would have been the greatest Passover *ever!* ... And they would have saved themselves from the horrors of 70 AD when their beloved temple, and the city of Jerusalem, and the territory of Judea were levelled to the ground by the Roman army. Instead though, the religious leaders 'clammed up', and rejected Jesus. Less than two days later they put Him on a cross, and they sealed their opposition towards Him.

But lastly, look at who is standing beside Jesus, as he had done many a time throughout the three years plus he had been with the Saviour ... Do you see one of them not showing much of an interest, - his mind is wandering to other things? ... Do you see him standing there with Jesus, *Judas Iscariot*? ... He had been listening to the Pharisees, and the Herodians, the Sadducees and the scribes ... and his mind was 'in overdrive' ... It's Judas Iscariot, and he made his choice as to whose side he was on, for we read, [Mk. 14:10](#) *And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him [Jesus] unto them. ¹¹ And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.* ... He sold his soul to abandon the Saviour.

It is so tragic when people hear the Gospel and deny the Lord Jesus. Like Judas, they can put up a pretence, put forward an impression, but they themselves know they are not right with God, and they don't know personally His Son as their Saviour. ... Being a Christian is not the same as having a religion, even a form of Christianity ... Being a Christian is having Christ in your life, directing you in how you go, being obedient to Him, and enjoying a living personal relationship which means nothing in your life is out of bounds to Him ... Being a Christian means He is the most precious Possession you own.

Do you know why the Gospels were written? Here's why, [Jn. 20:31](#) *these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.* ... He is the only Truth, He is the only way to Heaven and to God, and He is the only true meaning for real life ... That is not my words, but God's word. The religious leaders rejected Him ... *what a stupendous mistake to make!*