

Morning Sermon January 11, 2015
“Truth about Jesus and His & Our Foes”
Luke 20:41-47; Psalm 110

I. The truth is, none of us should ever doubt Christ or His Authority, nor should we diminish Him in any way –

⁴¹ **And He said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? ⁴² "Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: `The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ⁴³ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ⁴⁴ "Therefore David calls Him `Lord'; how is He then his Son?" Luke 20:41-44**

1. Jesus had handled the questioning – Luke 20:1-39 and He left His opponents silent –

⁴⁰ **But after that they dared not question Him anymore. (Luke 20:40 NKJ)**

- A. Note His patience in listening to, and responding to their challenges!*
- B. Note their challenges of Christ show us they did not know Him or themselves!*

2. Jesus gives them His own question based on David's words in Psalm 110

- A. Not to defeat or humiliate them*
- B. Rather to instruct, correct and build them up*
- 3. The most profitable correction and instruction is FOCUS on Jesus –*
 - A. Jesus was and is the Son of David, He is not denying that*
 - B. What He does not want us to miss is that He was and is much more than the son of David, He is the eternal Son of God!*

The Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees were all missing this vitally important truth –

³ **"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)**

Note what Christ prays to His Father next and compare it to what He warns us about concerning the scribes – Luke 20:45-47

⁴⁵ **Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples, ⁴⁶ "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, ⁴⁷ "who devour widows' houses, and for a**

pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation." (Luke 20:41-47 NKJ)

II. What was wrong with the Scribes?

1. They were too into their own appearance, style, before men – Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes – Luke 20:46a

2. They "loved" the wrong things – love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, Luke 20:46b

- A. Greetings*
- B. Best seats in the synagogues*
- C. Best places at feast*

They were all about style and their own glory, when they should have been about substance and service:

For instance, if they would have really KNOWN the Word of God, they would have recognized our Lord Jesus Christ and they would have pointed to Him –

- John the Baptist did –*

²⁹ **The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)**

- John the Baptist was not about style -*

⁴ **And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. (Matthew 3:4 NKJ)**

• John the Baptist did not seek the same things or places – In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea (Matthew 3:1 NKJ)

Now, this is NOT about particular PLACES, Jesus did not minister from the wilderness like John the Baptist did, it is about MOTIVATION / heart: Why are you wearing what you wear? Why do you live where and how you live?

- 3. They did the wrong things and even the right things they did they did in the wrong way and for wrong reasons –*

⁴⁷ "who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Luke 20:47a

A. *They made their ministry expensive even for poor people, - who devour widows' houses*

B. *The opposite also can be true, people can deprive their minister*

–
¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJ)

C. *A pretense of long prayers, beware of pretended spirituality for earthly and material gain!*

III. *How would the scribes be judged?*

These will receive greater condemnation." (Luke 20:47b NKJ)

Being a scribe, pastor, elder, teacher, evangelist, missionary, apostle, prophet, deacon, Sunday School Teacher, WIC Leader, etc...

These are positions of High Privilege and High Responsibility; this is why James writes –

^{NKJ} James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. (James 3:1 NKJ)

1. *This is a fearful and humbling thing for me as a pastor and it should regulate:*

A. *How I think*

B. *How I live, not only before men but before God*

C. *How I minister and use my time and resources*

D. *This applies not only to pastors and elders but also to privileged lay people, privilege with hearing God's Word, privileged with material wealth or special talents*

2. *Faltering is not only why we are judged but also can become part of the judgment –*

³⁷ But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, ³⁸ that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled,

which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" ³⁹ Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with *their* eyes, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." (John 12:37-40 NKJ)

IV. *These things should be taken to heart by elders and deacons, and us, as we are near to electing new ones –*

1. *The responsibility of elders, twofold:*

²⁸ "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Act 20:28 NKJ)

A. *Take heed to yourself, meaning morally and spiritually*

B. *Take care of the flock as a shepherd, remembering their price – Christ's blood*

2. *The responsibility of deacons –*

^{NKJ} Acts 6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:1-4 NKJ)

A. *They are responsible to minister to the more material needs of the congregation –*

B. *They are to do this in order to free up the elders to minister to the more spiritual NEEDs, especially the teaching elder.*

C. *This does not mean they cannot have a spiritual calling, see the rest of Acts 6 & 7*

3. *What we all NEED –*

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11 NKJ)

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