

PRELIMS. Christ is in the Temple for the **last** time. He has been teaching but is accosted 3 times - by troublemakers seeking to find fault! And then a **genuine** enquirer comes, about whom Jesus has to say *You are **not far** from the kingdom of God* [34]! **APP** That, of course informs us, does it not, that salvation is usually a **process** and **not necessarily** an **instantaneous** reaction to a message which may later be regretted or denied! But commitment to Christ is a well, and long, thought-out response to revelation and truth!

The CONTEXT of WHO is CHRIST?

People have been asking Jesus 'hard' questions - and He gave them good answers! He **silenced** them all! So much so, that *no one dared to ask Him any more questions* [34]. The significant point here is that Jesus **doesn't like** when there is **no engagement** with people! Here is the Son of God, and He is **disappointed** no-one is speaking to Him!

You know, it was **not Karl marx** who invented **community!** It was God. The Trinity is the Perfect Community - and God wants to **share** His vision of community with **people!** That is what the **Communion** is all about! Communion between Father, Son, Holy Spirit, **People!!** Engagement and **interaction** are **vital** for commitment to Him and for **sanctification!** The Communion is for sanctification!

So what does Jesus do when no one comes and asks Him any more questions? Well, He now **asks them** a question! Jesus wants people to **know** the **truth/reality/life!** He wants to **help** people who are in **need** of knowledge and understanding of the significance of life!

Notice, asking questions is all part of **teaching!** It was *as Jesus taught in the temple* [35] He asks them a question. Now Jesus **asks questions**, not only to find out have we grasped something, but to make us **THINK** about the **consequences, significance** and the **implications** of **what** we believe - and **why** we believe what we believe! What we believe **regulates** our whole life and conduct and therefore it is wise to find out all that is **implicated** in what we believe and its **relevance** to our lives on earth!

Xnity is actually a **rational** religion. It is not a 'leap in the dark'. It **IS** built on a solid **foundation**. History supports the claims of Xnity. It **confirms** the Bible and what Jesus taught! *Of course there **are** questions about life we **cannot** answer because we are not God. That is because we are **finite** in our understanding and **limited** in our knowledge. But it is our **duty** and **calling** to **find out more!**

You know, Xns are **CALLED to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** [2P3:18] We are **called** to be *Like newborn infants, long for the pure **spiritual milk**, that by it you may **grow up** into salvation* [1P2:2] That spiritual milk refers to the Word of God! Paul told the Eph's elders *now I commend you to God and to **the word** of his grace, which is able to **build you up*** [Acts 20:32] So, asking and considering questions is a good way to learn more. The Communion time **ought** to be a time of learning more about X!

The QUESTION

Note: it is a question about the **Word!** In [Psa 110:1] Lord is mentioned **twice!** *The **Lord** said to my **Lord***. The first Lord is the word for 'Jehovah', but the second is **another** Hebrew word 'Adonai' which also is a word for God. (Jehovah has the **covenant** element in it while Adonai has the Governor, Master, Ruer, Judge).

Jesus now asks them about a **long standing interpretation** of [Psa 110:1]. All the Jews believed that the 2nd *Lord* in [v1] of that Psalm refers to **the Messiah!** The concept all the Jews had of the Messiah was, that he was to be a great **MAN**, who would deliver and save the Israelites from their enemies! That was an **established** conviction of all Jews! In fact, Paul, Peter, Hebrews, all 'used' this one verse to **prove** to the Jews of their day that the Man Jesus Christ was **the Messiah!** [See Acts 2:34,35+1Cor 15:25+Heb 1:13 cf 10:13]! Quoting [Ps 110:1] as referring to the Messiah **silenced** all Jews!

Yet, there was a **conundrum** which was this: as we said, the 2nd word used for Lord in [v1] was the word used for **God**, Adonai! It was a word **ONLY** used for God! The **conundrum** was How could the **theologians**, and even **David**, say that this word referred to the

Messiah who was to be a **human being**? So the question: *How can the scribes say that **the Christ** (ie, the Messiah) is the son of David (a human being)? David himself in the Holy Spirit, declared 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand...' [Psa 110:1]*

What Jesus of course, is doing is teaching them about the **Trinity!** He is teaching them that this Son, in the line of David, was indeed a **true human being** (the Messiah) **AND truly God** (Adonai)! Jesus is saying that **Scripture** here is teaching that the Messiah was to be **God and Man!** Just as He had been trying to teach them all along!

APP For you/me, the lesson is look to **marvel** at the Person of Jesus Christ - both God and Man - a **mystery** but an actual **reality!** If this Messiah, this Son of God, was **not** man as well as God, there would be no communion here tomorrow, no acceptable sacrifice for sins!! You/me have to respond to this revelation we have of Jesus - are we going to **confess** He is who He says He is - Saviour of the world. Are we going to **profess** Him as such tomorrow? Surely He is worthy.

One commentator, said Jesus may well have been **encouraging Himself** in asking this question and repeating this passage!! **Why not?** Jesus, like each of us, **needed** encouragement! He *sweated great drops of blood* at the prospect of the Cross!

The MANIFESTATION of CHRISTLIKENESS

Mark ends this passage by giving us an **example** of what is **not**, and what **is**, real Christlikeness! It was **not** found in the **outward** appearance godliness. In fact Jesus **warns** us *Beware of the scribes* (very highly respected people) *who like to walk in long robes and greetings in the marketplaces* and the *best seats in the synagogues* and to make an **impression** on people with *long public prayers!*[40]

True religion is **not** found in dress, or in knowledge of church protocol, or proper language in greetings, or in ability to make long prayers in church! **APP** You know there can be a '**cult element**' in evangelical churches! There was in Israel, and there is still among God's covenant people! The books we read, the conferences we go to, the Christians we socialise with all indicate our cultic preferences!

True Christianity is **not** like that - that is **the way of the world!** The world **love distinguishing 'marks'** - signs that identify people as special! Clubs and Societies have their **emblems**, insignias, badges!

Of course, such things are **nor wrong** per se! Oh no! After all who had more **regalia** than the **OT Priests?** What is wrong to wear these symbols **in order to appear** either **successful** or **important** or **distinguished!** It is **wanting** and **seeking** the congratulations of men. The very desire to be seen and to be known as someone belonging to this Club or that Club or that Church! **Illust:** Neighbour's sister who said '**Obviously** made the right choice **because** he got into the 1st 11 of the Cambridge Music Society and Cambridge Cricket Club'!!

True religion is completely different! Xnity does **not manifest** itself focussing on! The **object** of the true Xn's worship is completely **outside** of himself/herself. It is on **God/Christ!** Mark gives us a lovely **example**. He tells us about a widow - and a **poor** one at that! Maybe her house was **devoured** by one of the scribes!

He tells us she put into the offering plate **two small copper coins!**[43] **Amazing!** She put in the **two** - she could have kept **one** and still put 50% of her capital **all she had to live on!**[44] But no, she put in **both** of them? **Why?** Why did she put in **everything she had?**

Because of the **value** she placed on God/Christ! For her, **God** was **everything**. How can you tell the value you put on something? By how much you are **prepared to pay for it!** People's value of things differ! Someone might pay a fortune for a **painting** while someone else might not pay £10 for it! Why? Because of its value **to the person!** This widow valued God **more** than **anything** else in the world! **APP** What value do you place on God/Christ? Do you know the greatest thing you can give to God? Your **heart!** When you give Christ your heart, you give Him everything! ****You can do nothing more for Jesus Christ** at a communion time than to **acknowledge** what He has done for you. At a communion time, He sees *the travail of His soul* and is **satisfied**. He is glad He suffered for you.