

“The Son of David”
Mark 12:35-37
(Preached at Trinity, March 19, 2014)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In the previous chapter we learned that Jesus and His disciples have returned to Jerusalem and have entered the Temple where they were immediately confronted the religious leaders
Mark 11:27-28 NAU - "They came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him, ²⁸ and *began* saying to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?"
2. **Chapter 12** is in the context of our Lord's teaching in the Temple. Several times the Scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees came asking questions in an effort to discredit and humiliate Jesus but Jesus continually foils their efforts.
In the previous verses we found the Pharisees gathered together and one of them asked the question:
Mark 12:28 NAU - "What commandment is the foremost of all?"
Jesus' answer can be summed up with a single word - - LOVE
This concluded several questions asked by the Jewish leaders.
Mark 12:34 NAU - "After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions."
3. Now while the Pharisees were still gathered before Him Jesus took the opportunity to probe them with the ultimate question, "What do you think about the Christ?"
Mark 12:35 NAU - "And Jesus *began* to say, as He taught in the temple, "How *is it that* the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?"
Matthew 22:41-42 NAU - "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.*"
4. At first glance this passage seems disconnected to the previous section. But upon closer attention we find it has a definite and important connection.
 - A. The scribe had made the important relationship between the keeping of the Law and the condition of the heart. Most of the religious leaders saw the Law only in terms of concrete rules and regulations while harboring malice and hatred in their hearts. Jesus says in **Verse 38** - "Beware of the scribes"
 - B. This particular scribe, however, understood the importance of love. Without love all of the practice of religion becomes meaningless and vile. Upon his answer Jesus declared, "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (**Verse 34**).
5. The scribe was not far from the Kingdom but did he understand the most important part? So Jesus turns to the most important subject. "What do you think about the Christ?" "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?"

- A. The name Christ is another name for the Messiah, the Anointed One; the long awaited promise of God for a great Deliverer. It is not a name but a title.
1. The idea of the fulfillment of God's promise of sending the Christ is a central theme in the N.T.
 2. Of the titles given to Jesus Χριστός (Christ) is second only to Lord κύριος in frequency. It appears 516 times in the N.T.
- B. Remember, most of these religious people denied that Jesus is the Christ. They were looking for another – one that would fulfill their expectations of what the Messiah should be. Their problem was that their expectation did not match the teachings of Scripture.
- The Jewish people are still earnestly waiting for the coming of the Anointed One.
6. Once again, Jesus was about to confront them with truth. This is our chief tool in confronting error.
- Jesus is causing them to come face to face with the most important question.
- “What do you think about the Christ?”
- What is the true identity of the Son of David?
7. Without a proper knowledge of Christ and a proper trust in His work salvation is impossible.
- Acts 4:12 KJV** – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
8. As Jesus entered into Jerusalem a few days earlier we saw that few people had a neutral opinion of who Jesus was and what the Messiah should be.
- Mark 11:8-9 NAU** - "And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"
- Matthew 21:10-11 NAS** - "And when He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."
- There were *many* different expectations of what the Messiah should be. Most of them were based upon some degree of Biblical truth.
- A. Some saw Him as a King – which He is, but His Kingdom is unlike the kingdoms of this world.
 - B. Some saw Him as a Prophet – which He is, but like no earthly prophet ever was. And although He was a prophet few were willing to hear Him.
 - C. Though they possessed some truth, they still failed to have a proper knowledge of Christ and so they remained lost in their sins.
9. In **Verse 35** of our text for tonight we find that the Scribes, the religious experts, believed the Christ to be the Son of David.
- A. And He was. Scripture was clear about this.
- 2 Samuel 7:12-13 NAU** - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
- B. The Gospel of Matthew opens:
- Matthew 1:1 NAU** - "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:"

- C. Although they knew the Messiah was the Son of David giving this title to Jesus was repugnant to them.
Matthew 12:23-24 NAU - "All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."
10. They knew the Messiah was the Son of David but they did not really understand the meaning of this designation of the Messiah.
11. In His exploratory question Jesus takes them to **Psalm 110**
Psalm 110:1 NAU - "The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
 LORD – יְהוָה, Lord - אֲדֹנָי
12. The Scribes and Pharisees rightly declared the Messiah to be the Son of David. To the scribe in the previous verses Jesus said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But it was essential that they know something about the Son of David
- A. David states that the Son of David was the Son of God.
 "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
 David states that Yahweh, the one true Sovereign God, declares to his Lord (Adonai) that He shall sit at His right hand until every foe is conquered.
- B. This is the King we've been looking at on Sunday evenings from the Book of Daniel
Daniel 2:44 NAU - "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."
Daniel 7:13-14 NAU - "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. ¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."
13. David speaks of a greater King and calls Him Lord – "My Lord"
 David is declaring the Christ to be his Lord; that Jehovah Himself has raised the Christ to His right hand of majesty and that He will conquer all of His enemies.
14. Jesus is saying there are some things you need to know about the Son of David. David declared Him to be the mighty conquering King seated at the right hand of God.

- I. David is speaking of a personal Lord – a personal King.
Psalm 110:1 KJV - "The LORD said unto my Lord"
- A. Jesus has entered into the very throne room of God
1. Jesus has entered into the Holy of Holies on our behalf
Hebrews 9:24 NAS - "For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"
 2. Jesus Christ represents His people before God
Romans 8:32-34 NAS - " He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."
- B. This sovereign Kingship of Christ was made possible through His victory on the cross
1. He accomplished the redemption of His people and conquered all of His enemies
Hebrews 1:3 KJV - "Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"
 2. His exaltation was assured
Phil. 2:8-11 NAU - "Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
- C. Who are these enemies? His enemies are our enemies.
1. Satan, Sin, Death
2 Timothy 1:9-10 NAS - "who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰ but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,"
 2. Those who continue in unbelief – His enemies
Psalm 110:5-6 NAS - "The Lord is at Thy right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶ He will judge among the nations, He will fill *them* with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country."
 3. He has defeated them all!
Psalm 72:8-9 KJV - "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. ⁹ They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust."

- II. Progressive revelation tells the whole story
- A. At this point Jesus was not ready to declare Himself to be the Christ.
1. Jesus is declaring that the Christ was not *merely* the Son of David but also the Son of God. But Jesus comes short of declaring Himself to be the Christ.
 2. Jesus does declare that it was by inspiration that David called Him Lord.
Mark 12:36 NAU - "David himself said in the Holy Spirit"
 3. The Bible unfolds God's redemptive purpose progressively, at first by shadows and then clearly.
- B. Finally Peter, also under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit tells the whole story.
Acts 2:29-36 NAS - "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat *one* of his descendants upon his throne, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. ³² "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet."" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

Conclusion:

1. The most important question any person can ponder is – “What do you think of the Christ?” “What do you think about Jesus? Who do you think He is? What did He do? Have you trusted Him as your Lord? Is His death upon the cross sufficient? This is indeed a matter of life and death.
2. The Pharisees could not accept that the Messiah was God. Nor could they accept that Jesus was the Messiah.
David called Jesus Lord. The Pharisees were about to kill Him
They failed the test.
3. Jesus made it personal. He always makes it personal – “What about you?”
Matthew 22:41-42 NAU - "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."
4. What do you think about the Christ? Is He your Savior? Is He your Lord and King?