

Mark 12:35-40 – Beware of Half-Truth telling Teachers

TSK, GrkLexicon, Handfuls, Gill, Geneva, Clarke, JFB, Barnes, Rienecker, PNT, Trapp, Robertson, Abbot, Calvin, Vincent, Four-Fold, Family, Henry Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When the Pharisees (法利赛人), the Sadducees (撒都该人), and the Scribes (文士) came to Jesus with their 3 traps, their goal was to destroy him and his work. But **Jesus boldly spoke the truth** to each of these groups. He could have just ignored them, but he didn't. **He wanted them to look to God for their salvation**. He knew the truth would set them free. But **they rejected him and, in doing so, they rejected the only hope that could have been theirs**.

Today you will see, even a few days away from the cross, how **Jesus exposed the Jewish leaders for their wickedness**. These leaders did not want to be saved, but at least the people would have the opportunity to be saved.

Our headings are:

The Challenge: See the lying teachers

The Counsel: Shun (远避) the lying teachers

Our goals are: **You will avoid lying teachers and be good students of the whole Bible so you can then spread the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the infinite God-man, around the world.**

The Challenge: See the lying teachers

35 Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the **scribes say** that the **Christ is the Son of David (only)?** 36 "For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: '**The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."**' 37 "Therefore **David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?**" And the common people heard Him gladly.

1. After Jesus boldly spoke the truth to the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the scribes, contradicting and rebuking them for their false teaching, he then challenged them in front of regular people.

Jesus did this so that **the people would not be fooled and be lost.**

2. Jesus asked: "How could the scribes and Pharisees say that the Messiah was David's biological son and nothing more?"

The scribes and the Pharisees taught that Messiah would be a regular man *because* they were advocating (鼓吹) for **salvation by works of the law**. They had no use for a suffering Messiah who would be **great enough (be God) to die for the world**. To them, man could save himself.

The Devil, the father of the Jewish leaders, used that concession 让步 (half-truth that Jesus was David's Son) to promote a lie. He taught that **the Messiah was not God; only David's Son**. This is how the Devil works. He knows half-truths are more deadly than lies! And the **Pharisees, who had seen what happened a few days earlier, were getting worried**. What happened?

Matthew 21:9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who **comes in the name of the LORD!**' Hosanna in the highest!"

No wonder the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus and destroy him.

3. Jesus answered the question himself and proved that David was saying Messiah would be more than David's son. How?

a. He asserted that David was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write. So what David wrote were the words of the Holy Spirit.

b. He asserted (宣称) that David confirmed that Messiah would be his Lord - Master. (The world would become his footstool.) And Messiah would be taken **up into heaven** and made to **sit at the right hand of the Father** – having accomplished the work the Father had sent him to do. (Sitting at God's right hand showed exaltation, dignity, power, and authority.) The was the place of God the Son! This was not simply David's son.

c. He asserted that David announced that Messiah would bring the whole world under subjection to the Messiah. We can say the whole world will come on Messiah's subjection (顺从) **because the whole world is Christ's enemy**. And if his enemy would become his footstool, then the world would come under his subjection. This was remarkable testimony (见证) from the great Warrior King! **David saw himself as part of this new kingdom!** Also,

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, **That to Me every knee shall bow**, Every tongue shall take an oath.

Apostle Paul then attributed what Isaiah wrote to Christ:

Romans 14:11 For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, **Every knee shall bow to Me**, And every tongue shall confess to God."

David claimed that his Son would be man and God. His **Son would have attributes (属性) only God has**, so he is God.

4. But the truth was the Pharisees rejected Jesus as the true God-man Messiah. Among other things:

a. The Pharisees saw Jesus as a libertarian (自由论者) with no use for God's law. This of course was untrue, as Jesus perfectly obeyed God's law, a credit that comes to every believer. But Jesus obeyed the letter and intention of the law.

b. The Pharisees saw Jesus as a Samaritan (撒玛利亚人) – those half-breed Jews.

c. The Pharisees thought Jesus was possessed by the Devil while others said he used demons to cast out demons. The Pharisees and scribes simply rejected the Biblical teaching about Jesus.

5. And the people listened with rapt (全神贯注的) attention.

They were pleased with the superior doctrine of Jesus. His doctrines were logical and reasonable. They desired to listen.

6. Because the Pharisees and others were unable to answer Jesus, they got angrier and angrier.

If the Pharisees said that Jesus was not the Messiah, then the people would have been upset with them. **David said he was. If the Pharisees said that he was the Messiah**, then the people would say: “Why aren’t you following him?” No wonder Jesus was dead a few days later!

7. Lessons:

a. Jesus spoke the truth to all men. It did not matter whether they were in a high position or just ordinary people. He showed no favoritism (偏爱). But it is notable that often it is the poor that listened to him.

b. Beware of those who focus on one part of the Bible. Listen to those who preach from all parts, who show the consistency of the parts, and who show the message of Jesus from all the parts. Remember how Philip taught the Ethiopian 埃塞尔比亚人 the Gospel from Isaiah? Jesus’ life and work are found throughout the OT. Some preachers avoid difficult parts. Most cults Christians hide some parts of the Bible or relegate (贬低) them as insignificant. Some preachers may just be ignorant. But especially **watch out for those who trade in half-truths.**

c. Examples of half-truths: The Devil does not always try to stop people from worshipping. He knows people want to worship. He simply tries for them to change how they worship. Again, the Devil does not say that we shouldn’t have leadership in the church. He knows people want leadership. He simply promotes *women leadership* to destabilize 使...不稳定的 family and the church.

d. Never worry when you see attacks on the church by the Devil and his people. Be sad, but don’t worry. Christ will have dominion (统治) in the end. All his enemies will bow to him one day.

e. Preachers are to speak the Gospel through the Holy Spirit. When a preacher says: “Thus says the Lord,” it should not be his opinion.

The Counsel: Shun the lying teachers

38 Then He said to them in His teaching, "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in **long robes**, **love greetings** in the marketplaces, 39 "the **best seats in the synagogues (公会)**, and the **best places at feasts**, 40 "who **devour widows’ houses**, and for a **pretense make long prayers**. These will receive **greater condemnation (定罪, 谴责).**"

1. Jesus then urged the people to shun those lying (half-truth telling) teachers.

His response was not from jealousy. **His response was because he cared for the people and wanted to save them from the leaders’ lies.** He did not want them to lose the opportunity to be saved.

2. Jesus then pointed out why these false teachers so dangerous.

a. The scribes and Pharisees gave the appearance of being godly but they were hypocrites (假冒伪善者). **They wore long flowing robes** that were conspicuous, noticed from a distance. **They wore wider coats with larger fringes (衣服穗子).** (Everyone had coats with fringes, but they wanted larger ones.) **They had more, larger, and more elaborate phylacteries (经文护符匣)** – showing the world that they were carrying more Scriptures. (They didn’t care what the Scriptures said.) Matthew: They loved when people called out: “Rabbi, Rabbi!” They were egotistical 自我的, 自负的!

b. The scribes and Pharisees loved the prestige (声望) by virtue of their positions.

In the Synagogues. The seats of the senior men were turned toward the people (with space between them) and their backs were to the Holiest Place. So everyone saw them. **Matthew said they liked to sit in Moses’ Seat**, a place where they could be official teachers and judges. But their position did not give them the right to their own truth.

At feasts. They would take the **most prominent (突出的) positions at the front**, away from the regular people. (In Jewish culture you could know who the most important was by the place he sat.)

c. They abused (虐待) the people by taking away their houses through pretense (借口).

They made long prayers, often coming 1 hour before worship and staying 1 hour after. Many of them did this 3X per day, for 9 hours per day. They made the widows think they were really spiritual (属灵的).

They pretended to give advice to widows and then demanded large payments from them.

They pretended to teach the law to widows, but it was only to fake being nice, and with the expectation that they would be put in the will of the widows. These wicked men were to be shunned because they literally swallowed up (侵吞) widows' houses. They only looked pious, but they lived for their own power and pleasure.

3. Jesus then warned the people that the scribes and the Pharisees would receive greater judgment.

a. The scribes and the Pharisees abused the weakest. They plundered (掠夺), even without using weapons, the poor, the widows, and the fatherless. And they did this all in the name of religion and holiness. Matthew said that they were literally putting crushing (压垮人的) loads on the backs of the people and did not lift a finger to help them. They did this in order to keep the people under their control. But abusing God's children was dangerous to their health.

b. The scribes and the Pharisees knew better. This is what made their sins worse and judgment worse.

4. Jesus exposed the scribes and the Pharisees to make sure the people rejected their false teaching, and at the same time, he showed that the Word of God by itself was good and should not be rejected.

5. Lessons:

a. When your pastor's and elders' lives don't match the Word of God, don't ignore the Word of God. That Word still stands! Don't let bad pastors hinder (拦阻) you from holiness.

b. Leaders must not be afraid to confront lies in order to save the people. A good example to follow was Martin Luther. He challenged Erasmus from inside and the Pope from outside. Silence at ignorance says a lot. Silence at deception says a lot more.

c. Don't promote how much of a Christian you are by the size of your Bible or other such symbols. Show you are a Christian by your love.

d. There are degrees of judgment in hell. The worse the sinner, the worse the punishment! Those who abuse widows, orphans, and foreigners would do well to take note. Those who **go overseas and take advantage of foreigners** (like in Bangladesh and Thailand) had better take note as well. And judgment is always worse for hypocrites—people who know better but only pretend to obey.

e. The length and the place of your prayer is of little significance to the Lord.

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Conclusion:

Christ confronted and exposed the false teachers of his day. He then challenged the people to see those lying teachers and shun them. What is most interesting is that the Lord **used the doctrine (教义) of the dual nature of Christ** to prove how false the Jewish leaders were, and he wanted the people to know **how essential that doctrine was.** The people would have no Savior unless they **realized and believed that Messiah had to be God and man.** Man sinned, so man had to die. He had to be God, great enough to save the whole world!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Be good students of the whole Bible. Surround yourself with solid teachers who preach from the whole Bible. Don't blindly believe what a preacher says. Make sure in your interpretation that one part of the Bible is consistent with all parts of the Bible.

2. Boldly proclaim truth to all men so they could be rescued from darkness. What is that truth? The infinite God-man came into the world to die in the place of sinners. That one is Jesus. There is no other Savior.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, let me tell you the truth. Christ was fully man. Christ was fully God. This was why he was able to be an acceptable substitute (代替) to die for the sins of the world. Do you want his death to be counted as yours? Ask God. He will accept Christ in your place and clear your record of all wrong doing.