

## Mk. 12:35-37 “The Lord Said to My Lord”

**For the Children:** Sometimes children at school pretend they have taken the teacher’s place. They sit in the teacher’s chair, and perhaps pretend to start teaching. Then the teacher enters the room, and there is a quick scramble for the child to get out of teacher’s seat and back in their own! After the Lord Jesus finished His work on the cross, He was exalted to God’s “right hand,” where He was seated in power and authority. That is a much greater seat than the teacher’s chair! The Lord Jesus was entitled to that position, because He is God, and because as man He had finished all the work His Father had given Him. From that position and with that power, He saves His people and defeats all whom oppose Him. **Questions:** What did the Jewish leaders not understand about Jesus? What kind of messiah did they want? Since Jesus is the Messiah, how should we treat Him?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: A Question for the Scribes**

- **Tables Turned:** The Jewish leaders did not understand the Scriptures (v. 24). They had tried to trap the Lord with questions, but were no longer game to ask any. Now He asks them a question about Scripture. He asks them to explain what they mean by claiming the Messiah is “David’s son” – “in what sense?” (vss. 35, 37). Jesus, a son of David, had entered Jerusalem as their Messiah. Why had they ejected that claim? It came down to their understanding of the nature of the Messiah.
- **Not So Great Expectations:** The leaders were correct that Messiah would be David’s son (2 Sam. 7: 9:7, 11:1f, Amos 1:11 etc.). However, they did not consider all the OT taught on this subject. Most expected a merely human messiah, bringing in an earthly kingdom restoring Israel’s political boundaries and national glory. When Jesus taught that He was much more than a human messiah and bringing in a kingdom not of this world, they sought to kill Him as a blasphemer

#### **Second Point: An Answer Concerning Christ’s Divinity**

- **David’s Testimony:** The Lord directs the attention of the leaders to Ps. 110:1, a psalm of David which they accepted as messianic. However, they had missed the fact that David refers to one greater than himself, who has a heavenly throne at God’s right hand, and with whom Yahweh talks – “the Lord (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai)...” This second “Lord,” known to be the Messiah, must be Divine.
- **A Puzzle for the Leaders:** How, then, can both strands within the OT be true? They must both be true, since all Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit. How, then, can the Messiah be both the “Son of David”/human and the Son of God/Divine? Only by adding a human nature to the Divine Nature, in one Person. This is not just abstract theology. The large number of references to Ps. 110 in the NT show that Jesus’ question to the leaders is vitally important!

#### **Third Point: An Answer Concerning Christ’s Victory**

- **The Messiah’s Foot-Rest:** The Lord makes another vitally important point from Ps. 110:1 – one that demands a response from us. The Psalm states that Yahweh will put all the Messiah’s enemies under His feet, after seating Him at His right hand. The “Right Hand” of God represents Divine power and authority. No mere man can occupy this place, and to claim it would be blasphemy for any other. The fact that *all* His enemies must submit including the Jewish leaders – again shows that Christ is Divine. Likewise, the passages that speak of every knee bowing to Him (Phlp. 2:10 with Is. 45:23, Rom. 14:11).
- **Exaltation after Humiliation:** This statement from Ps. 110:1 also implied that Jesus’ state of humiliation at that time was to give way to the state of exaltation – resurrection, ascension and heavenly “session” (being seated at God’s right hand to intercede for His people and subdue His enemies). Those who accept this truth should willingly submit to His authority and seek to serve Him from the heart. Otherwise our confession that He is the Messiah is flawed like that of the leaders!

### **Conclusion:**