

## **“JESUS HAS A QUESTION OF HIS OWN.”**

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**Scripture Texts: Mark 12:35-40**

### **Introduction.**

In the last week before His death Jesus was challenged and debated by every part of the Sanhedrin, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the scribes and He decisively prevailed over them all. It was no contest. He had bested the best.

Mark 12:34 in Greek is worded very strongly. “After that no one dared to ask him any more questions.”

The fifth and final question of Mark 12 belongs to Jesus. Turnabout is fair play. He has the last word. These are Jesus’ final public words of teaching before His death. “After a day of questions comes the question of the day” (Ralph Martin).

Jesus was in the temple, in the center of the Sanhedrin’s power and authority and it was there that Jesus put a question to the intellectual elite of Judaism. Remember these are the highly trained PhDs. Jesus quotes the Bible to the Bible scholars.

Jesus challenges the authorities in their place of authority to show who really is the authority.

### **Mark 12:35-37.**

#### ***“How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?”***

The Sanhedrin asked hard questions, Jesus asked *The* question. Jesus asked the scribes about their understanding of the Messiah who is also called The Christ and the Son of David.

The scribes believed that the promised redeemer would come from the root of Jesse, the seed of David, he would be of royal lineage, but coming from David’s line, he would be an ordinary human, a descendent of David, hence a son of David.

Jews then as Jews today, believed that the Messiah would be a great king, of great influence and power. He would conquer the enemies of Israel and usher in the Kingdom of David under the Davidic Covenant. But he would be a human being and nothing more. He wasn’t so much a Savior of souls as a Savior of Israel.

The Jews to this day expect a Messiah to come who would be greater than Moses and David, but still one more like them and certainly not God.

This is why they hated Jesus. He attacked their theology, their positions of authority, their temple. They hated Him for exposing their hypocrisy. But most of all they hated Him for being a blasphemer by making Himself equal with God.

***David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared ...***

David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.” David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?”

Jesus quoted from Psalm 110, the most quoted OT verse in the NT.

***The Lord said to my Lord.***

The scribes said that David was talking about his own kingdom being established, that his kingdom would be established over his own enemies.

Jesus said no, the Psalm wasn't just the words of David but the Word of the Holy Spirit and a prophecy about the Kingdom of Christ yet to come.

The proof against their interpretation is that the words can't fit David or any earthly king. David called him Lord. David was submitting himself to the rule and reign of a greater King, who is the Christ.

We tend to think of the Psalms as a bunch of prayers or hymns that record David's thoughts and feelings, his prayers and praises. There is that, but so much more. In the Psalms we find Christ, His coming, His suffering, His death and resurrection, His Lordship and Kingship.

One greater than David is recorded in the pages of the Psalms.

***Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.***

What is the right hand of God? God's right hand is His power and authority. Where does the Messiah sit? At God's feet? Above God's head? No at His side, on an equal level as God.

He occupies the throne of supreme power and authority. Jesus is given the exalted position in the universe. He is Almighty and invincible.

People, we worship and serve the risen and exalted king. There is no God like our God and no king like our King. He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, above all earthly powers.

Jesus Christ has enemies, fierce and great enemies, enemies who will stoop to anything and will stop at nothing. Enemies who think nothing of bombing and killing Christians, enemies who think nothing of burning Christian schools, hospitals, churches and homes. Enemies who delight in shedding the blood of innocent women and children.

We must not become defeated or discouraged at the sight of horrible hostility and hatred. All who oppose Him and deny Him will one day be crushed.

*David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?*

How can the Christ be both David's son and David's Lord?

They were speechless, no one could answer. Their religion is a thoughtless religion. They have not considered the implications of what they believe. They don't seek to know the truth, they seek to exploit the truth for their benefit.

Of all the truth in the OT, this is the most important truth of all, who is the Messiah. All the OT points to this central truth and teaching.

How can they call themselves teachers of the Scriptures when they can't even explain the most basic and central truth of their Scriptures?

How can the Messiah be David's son? Because the Messiah is not just David's son, He's also God's Son.

**Romans 1:3-4** concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the hour of Jesus' death was just a couple of days away He boldly proclaimed Himself to be the Messiah. To those who have ears to hear and eyes to see He gives them reason to place their confidence in Him, in His divine power and in His ability to save us. Don't be put off by His flesh or by what wicked men are about to do to His flesh.

**Mark 12:38-40**

Remember I said the Sanhedrin was made up of the spiritual and religious leaders of the day, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the scribes and High Priest. They were the denominational officers, the executive staff, the seminary professors, the senior pastors of the big churches.

These were the people's leaders, the ones they looked up to, the ones they expected good things from. These were the wise ones.

It's a terrible day when someone has to stand up and warn the people to beware of their own leaders. It's a very unpopular thing to have to do. And it's nasty business.

In Jesus' day they were easy to spot in their long flowing white robes, sitting in the seats of prominence in the synagogue and at the great feasts. They would greet each other in public, "greetings Rabbi, greetings Doctor, Father, Your Excellency, O Great Teacher, O Learned One." They sought honor and cared nothing for the common people, even taking advantage of widows.

It's instructive to look at how Jesus confronted sin in the NT. When he confronted the woman caught in adultery, when He confronted Zacchaeus' greed, Paul's persecution and many others it was with mercy and compassion.

But the sin of hypocrisy received Jesus' strongest condemnation. Those who had the appearance of godliness but wore it as a cloak to cover up an evil heart, these He exposed with the strongest words.

Jesus again and again warned about liars, deceivers, wolves in sheep's clothing, agents of Satan, the Father of all lies and deception. Again and again Jesus pronounced woe to hypocrites.

Jesus exposed the sin of hypocrisy for the terrible sin it is. This is the sin of putting on a show of religion, of appearing pious and holy, of making a pretense of being upright and moral.

It's bad enough to be greedy or lustful or proud or bitter, but it's worse yet to be all that behind a disguise of being religious and holy. Beware of hypocrisy in you and others, and especially in your leaders.

God knows our hearts and our thoughts and our motives. God sees through our words, He sees through the paint and varnish and veneer. He sees through the pretense. God is not mocked and He cannot be fooled and we cannot hide from Him.

The scribes had no interest in true religion. They were only concerned for themselves. They served only one lord, themselves. They sought the first and best places. They sought favor more with men than with God.

Beware of all false religion. Beware of anyone who would lead you away from Jesus or say anything false about Jesus. Beware of prosperity preachers, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, beware of anyone who has a false or skewed view of who Jesus is.

**II John 1:7-11** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Those are very strong words. What are they saying? They are saying first of all, beware of anyone who does not confess Christ as taught in the Bible lest you place yourself in danger of losing what you have worked for.

Second, it warns about letting such a deceiver into your home. Talk to them on your front porch, meet down at Woods but not invite them into your home.

Don't invite into your home someone who is intent on evangelizing you away from the true Gospel. They have come to seduce you. They have come like Satan to get you to question what God has said. People who deny our faith are destroyers of souls.

You don't have to be uncivil or mean or harsh. But don't treat them as you would a friend either, for they are neither a friend of you nor what you believe.

**II John 1:10-11 (KJV)**... neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Do not call what is evil good, and do not give your blessings to what is contrary to God.

### **Application and Conclusion.**

#### ***Concerning the Bible and Hard Questions.***

How often does Jesus say, "Have you not read?" Or "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures." How often does Jesus take Scripture and teach its true meaning?

Jesus asked the scribes the meaning of a difficult text and they couldn't get it. Jesus wants us to know Scripture and the answers to hard questions. We have the hindsight of the NT that opens up all the Scripture to us. We must all learn how to gain meaning and understanding from difficult texts.

We would do well to engage in more conversations and discussions that involve questions of Biblical and spiritual and theological significance. We shouldn't shy away from such kinds of questions or leave them just for trained pastors.

We really should avail ourselves of the Sunday evening sermons on the creeds and confessions of our faith. We really should avail ourselves of the kinds of discussions and teaching going on in our women's studies and men's studies. Take God's Word seriously, take it to heart, love it and learn it. If we think it doesn't matter our text today shows we are mistaken.

Do we come here on Sundays because we want to be thought well of by our friends and neighbors, because we don't want gossip to start, because we want to look good in the eyes of others, or do we come because we want to show our sincere love for God and to know His Word and to grow in the truth and knowledge of Christ and His gospel?

#### ***Concerning the privilege of declaring to you the truth concerning the Messiah.***

It's an incomparable privilege for me, a foolish sinner, to be allowed by the pure grace of God to be a messenger of so great a message from so great a Messiah, the one true and only living Son of God.

And it's a sacred trust to defend the truth concerning Jesus and to expose lies and errors and slander and heresies. I hate lies told concerning Jesus and His Word. Please don't shoot the messenger when I must warn you and tell you to beware those who we should be able to trust but must hold to account when they wander from the Word of God.

And it's a privilege to be the one sent here by God to ask you, "What are you going to do with Jesus?" Who is He to you? Do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah of God, sent from heaven as God to become man to save us from our sins, if we repent and put our faith in Him?

If you get this wrong, everything else is wrong. There is no salvation apart from this. And if you have this right, then even if everything else goes wrong, you will be saved and have eternal life.

Remember back when Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" Remember Peter's answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

That's pretty amazing for a Jew, to say the Messiah, the Son of David is also the Son of God. And remember Jesus' response. "Blessed are you Simon bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17).

He got it. That's who Jesus is, the son of David and the Son of God. Do you love Him with your whole heart? Men, are you man enough to say you love Jesus with your whole heart?

Brothers and sisters, we have a Savior and Lord who is like us in every way except sin, so He can sympathize with us and understand us. But we can also comfort ourselves in knowing that we have a Savior and Lord who is strong enough to give us His power to overcome sin and live our lives worthy of Him and for Him.

**John 20:30-31** Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Prayer:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. We acknowledge you and confess you. Enable us to faithfully and boldly confess you before men. Our generation needs this witness now more than ever. Thank you for your Holy Spirit inspired and preserved Word and that you have given it to us and that you have opened our hearts to it. People today say it's hard to understand and there are so many interpretations, but thank you that by the help of your Holy Spirit when we read and listen it starts to make more sense, the meaning becomes clear. Satisfy our souls with this Bread from heaven, with this divine truth. Feed and strengthen us as we walk into the world this week. With your Word chase away all fear, all doubts, all anxiety, all falsehood, all lies. Come Holy Spirit, come Lord Jesus, in your name we pray. Amen.