

Exegetical Notes, Matthew 22:41-46

“No More Questions”

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Matthew 22:41-46

Verse 41

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied.

- Throughout this chapter, the enemies of Jesus having been asking him questions on various subjects. While they pretended to be interested in Jesus’ opinion on these matters, they were not. Their questions were traps that were designed to discredit Jesus (See exegetical notes on Matthew 22:15-40). Their traps failed.
- In these verses, Jesus turns the tables. He asks the Pharisees a question. Like them, Jesus is not really interested in what they think. He simply wants to expose the extent of their ignorance in certain Biblical matters. Jesus knew that they were enslaved to their traditions and had not necessarily thought things out for themselves.
- “Christ” is the Greek form of the Hebrew word “Messiah.” Thus, Jesus asked them whose son the Messiah would be.
- They answered that the Messiah would be the “son of David.” This answer is correct. In Greek, and in Hebrew, the phrase, “son of” can mean ancestor of. The Messiah is the ancestor of David. (See the genealogies of Jesus which clearly establish that he is the ancestor of David, Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.) This was the traditional and expected answer.

Verse 43-44

He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him, ‘Lord’? For he says,

‘The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”

- The quotation comes from Psalm 110:1. In the Psalm, David, caught up in the Spirit, overhears a conversation between YHWH, notice the way LORD is first spelled in Psalm 110:1, and the Messiah. In the conversation, God invites the Messiah to assume the place of honor and be seated at his right hand. David calls the Messiah, “MY Lord” indicting that even David recognizes that the Messiah is greater than he.

Verse 45

“If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?”

- The correct answer to this question is found above. The Messiah is the “son of David” in that he is the descendant or the ancestor of David. In this sense, the Messiah is the “son of David,” even though he is greater than David.

Verse 46

No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- The Pharisees could not answer the question because they had never given this relatively simple matter any thought.
- Thus Jesus beat them at their own game. Their questions were designed to trap him by making him look uninformed before the people. They failed. But that is exactly what he did to them.
- Therefore, they gave up this plan. Clearly, Jesus showed that he was informed on these touchy religious matters. He could answer their trick questions without difficulty. However, they were not so well able to answer him.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *No More Questions*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor & Mr. Peter E. Jensen, Assistant Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen, Mr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)