

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 5, 2017

David's Lord
Mark 12:35-37

I. The scribes' perception (12:35)

And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?"

"And as Jesus taught in the temple"

- Jesus had a series of controversies throughout Tuesday of Passion Week
 - These controversies started when He attacked the temple that morning and since He had been paraded into the city by Galileans on Monday in the Triumphal Entry
- The result of these controversies led to no one asking Jesus anymore questions
 - He had revealed His authority in exposing the religious leaders lack of authority in their failure to respond to John the Baptist
 - He had predicted His death again in a most devastating fashion
 - He had upheld man's need to honor God by submitting to government and paying taxes
 - He had affirmed the Torah's teaching on the resurrection and exposed the Sadducees to be frauds
 - He had properly summarized the whole OT in loving God and loving neighbor
 - Even the scribe who agreed with Jesus' summary still was only *close* to the kingdom of God, yet not *in* the kingdom
- Jesus' responses allowed Him to take control and began to teach "He said, 'How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?'"
 - This is a unique moment in the teaching ministry of Jesus
 - He is in Jerusalem, not Galilee, the epicenter of Judaism
 - He had just dismantled the totality of the Jewish religious leadership before the eyes of all
 - What will He teach on?
 - His question addresses a characteristic about the Messiah or Christ
 - *Mashiach* = Hebrew
 - *Christos* = Greek
 - Anointed One or Messiah or Christ = English

- The Messiah’s identity as “Son of David” was a widely held belief among the people
 - Blind Bartimaeus called Jesus “Son of David” (Mark 10:46-52)
 - The scribes were teaching this so the people probably accepted it
 - There are several Old Testament passages that describe the Messiah as a descendant of David 2 Sam 7:11–16; 22:51; Pss 18:50; 89; Isa 9:6–7; 11:1–9; 16:5; Jer 23:5–6; 30:8–9; 33:15, 17, 22; Ezek 34:23–24; 37:24; Hos 3:5; Amos 9:11.
- Question: Is Jesus implying that the Messiah is *not* the Son of David??
 - Jesus is not addressing something that was flat out wrong with the statement that the Messiah is the Son of David
 - Jesus is revealing an incompleteness or a lack in the scribes and thus the people’s understanding of the Messiah
 - “His question was not meant to deny the correctness of this teaching by the scribes but rather to show that it was not the whole truth.”¹
 - Jesus is asking if primarily viewing the Messiah as a descendant of David is the *best* and *only* understanding of the Messiah

II. The Scripture’s presentation (12:36)

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”

- Jesus proceeds with the point of His question by alluding to the Scriptures
- He specifically alludes to something David himself wrote in the psalms
- Jesus appeals to the Word of God in His teaching

“In the Holy Spirit, declared,”

- Jesus quickly acknowledges something massive about the Old Testament
- The Old Testament was not simply written by natural men on their own thinking and ambitions
- The Old Testament was written by men who were influenced and “carried along” by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21).
- These are not merely David’s words, but God’s Words through David
 - As is the case with the whole of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17)!

“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”

¹ D. Edmond Hiebert, *The Gospel of Mark: An Expository Commentary* (Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1994), 355.

- Quote comes from Psalm 110, which everyone recognizes as Messianic
- In Psalm 110, David prophesies and describes the Messiah as a ruling King and a Priest in the order of Melchizedek
- However, a vital aspect of the Messiah is overlooked
 - The Messiah is described as David's Lord, not His son
- "The Lord said to my Lord" distinguishes two different characters
 - Unfortunately both these words are the same in English and Greek (*kurios*)
 - In Hebrew, Psalm 110 states that *Yahweh* says to *Adonai*
 - Who is the first "Lord"?
 - The Hebrew in Psalm 110 states that it is *Yahweh*
 - Thus, the first "Lord" stated is God
 - Who is the second "Lord"?
 - The Hebrew in Psalm 110 states that it is *Adonai*
 - The second term means master or lord
 - David distinguishes between someone who is God and someone else who is his Lord
 - But who on earth could possibly be Lord of David?
 - Especially since David is king of God's people and outranks everyone else
 - Only one obvious option at this point, He is the Messiah
 - How does one of David's descendants somehow manage to be his Lord?
 - Somehow the Messiah already exists according to David
 - Clearly this Messiah is not just another man
- This Messiah is told to sit at the right hand of God
 - To sit at God's right hand is share rule with Him
 - Again, this is no job for a mere man
- This Messiah will have God subdue His enemies underneath Him
 - Many Jews saw this Messiah as a military or political leader
 - But they did not envision the Messiah ruling over all the earth from the right hand of God
- In reality, there are several Old Testament passages that indicate the Messiah to be more than a human (Isaiah 9; 59; Psalm 2)

III. The Son's power (12:37)

David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

“David himself calls him Lord,”

- This proves Jesus’ point in quoting from Psalm 110:1
- Jesus wanted to focus on the first phrase, “The Lord said to my lord...”

“So how is he his son?”

- This was the massive point that Jesus was making in this dialogue
- Jesus pointed out something that the scribes had failed to piece together
 - There are passages that state Messiah is a descendant of David
 - And there are passages (like Psalm 110) that describe the Messiah is Lord and God, Himself
- Again, Jesus’ point is not to throw out any beliefs about the Messiah being a descendant or son of David
- Jesus is simply revealing a gaping hole in their theology about the Messiah
- Jesus revealed something that was true not just on an intellectual level, but a spiritual level as well