

**Who is the Christ?
Matt 22:41-46**

1. Back in Matthew 16 Jesus asked His disciples a question...

Matt 16:13

"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

- a. But earlier Jesus was speaking with His disciples, who knew Him and loved Him.
 - b. In that situation the question forced them to come to terms with their personal recognition of Jesus as the "Christos" – the Messiah – but not just *the Messiah*, their Messiah.
- 2. Here with the Pharisees the dynamic is different – these men are arguing with Him, trying to discredit Him.**
- a. Now I don't want to imply that I think Jesus is stooping to their level and trying to trip them up
 - b. But rather that Jesus, having a keen sense of situational awareness, is changing His tactic to meet the situation.
 - c. And so Jesus asks them a question that they, being trained biblical scholars, would know the answer to: "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?"
 - d. *(notice it is not personalized, but more generic)*

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?"

3. Of course the Pharisees would know this, because they knew the scriptures:

- a. In 2 Sam the Lord told King David before his death:

2 Sam 7:12-14

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

(yes Solomon was David's son, and built the temple, but he didn't live forever)

- b. Now if the Pharisees had done their homework, and looked into Jesus lineage (which the Israelites kept meticulous records of) they would have easily verified that Jesus was indeed born into the family of David:

(Not on slide) Matt 1:1-16**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

- 4. But the Pharisees would not do that, because they refused to consider that Jesus could be the Messiah.**
 - a. But at the same time they were actually confused about who Messiah would be...**
 - b. See in some OT passages, the Messiah is presented as the Suffering Servant**

Isa 53:4-5

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

- c. And other passages present Him as the conquering and ruling Monarch**

Mic 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

- d. So there was this debate amongst scholars:**

- i. Were there two Messiahs?
- ii. How could it be that God's servant would suffer and die?
- iii. How could these two pictures be reconciled?
- e. And this really gets to the heart of Jesus question, as Jesus is leading them to a truth about Himself that was outside of their preconceived perspective...

43 He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 44'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 45 If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"

Ps 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

- 5. In other words, how can the Messiah be David's son, and also be David's Lord?
 - a. A father would never call a son "Lord", maybe the other way around
 - b. And further, how could the Messiah be the son of God – and also be the son of David?
 - c. In the physical universe that is not possible...
- 6. So is this a riddle? No – there is an answer, only one answer, but was it an answer that they could accept?
 - a. Was it an answer they would receive – you see every question has an answer. The bigger question is "will I accept the truth?"
 - b. And so yes – there was an answer to Jesus question: *The answer is that the Messiah is both man – and God.*
- 7. The truth was that God has indeed sent the Messiah, just as He promised through scripture
 - a. Born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, born in the fullness of times
 - b. His humanity brought forth through His birth to Mary
 - c. His divinity attested to through signs and miracles,
 - d. His identity proven through His meeting every single one of the 300 prophecies that were given regarding his birth, life, and death
 - e. Just as the apostle Paul, who was most likely included in this group of Pharisees came to recognize:

1 Tim 3:16

God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

8. **This is the truth that the Pharisees were confronted with – they knew the scriptures, they knew the prophets, they had the ability to look at this man Jesus Christ and make a determination as to His identity.**
 - a. **But something held them off – something cause them to turn away...**

46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

9. **What was it? The hardness of this hearts? Their unwillingness to accept that God did not fit in their neat little box?**
 - a. **Peter, in his first sermon, preached to the leaders:**

Acts 2:34-36

"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

- b. **The point is not the someone killed Jesus – the point is that Jesus Christ is both Lord, God, and Christ, the Messiah**
- c. **The purpose of church is not to look back and mourn the crucifixion**
- d. **We look back with celebration, for at the crucifixion Jesus conquered sin and death, and through His blood offers is forgiveness....**

(***Not on slide)

Eph 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

10. Who is Jesus? (Tammy Read)

He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End! He is the keeper of Creation
and the Creator of all!

He is the Architect of the universe and The Manager of all times. He always was,
He always is, and He always will be... Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and
never Undone!

He was bruised and brought healing! He was pierced and eased pain!

He was persecuted and brought freedom! He was dead and brought life!

He is risen and brings power! He reigns and brings Peace!

The world can't understand him,

The armies can't defeat Him,

The schools can't explain Him,

The leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod couldn't kill Him,

The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him,

and the people couldn't hold Him!

Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him,

The New Age can't replace Him.

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord. He is Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and
God.

He is Holy, Righteous, Mighty, Powerful, and Pure.

His ways are right, His Word is eternal, His will is unchanging, and His mind is on
me.

He is my Redeemer, my Savior, He is my guide, and my peace!

He is my joy, my comfort, He is my Lord, and He rules my life!

I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is light and His goal for me is
abundant life.

I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, The power of the powerful,
The ancient of days,

The ruler of rulers, The leader of leaders, The overseer of the overcomers,
and The sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.

His goal is a relationship with ME! He will never leave me, Never forsake me,
Never mislead me, Never forget me,

Never overlook me, and never give up on me.

When I fall, He lifts me up!

When I fail, He forgives!

When I am weak, He is strong!

When I am lost, He is the Way!

When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!
When I face Death, He carries me Home!
He is everything for everybody, everywhere, Every time, and every way.

He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine!
So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand this...
God is in control, I am on His side, and That means all is well with my soul.
EVERY DAY OF LIFE IS A BLESSING BECAUSE GOD SIMPLY IS!

11. Communion

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