

IS JESUS YOUR LORD?

How many of you have an interest in trivia? You know, the knowledge of obscure and sometimes useless information. Here are a couple of trivia questions for you. What animal annually kills the most people in Africa? The mosquito. What non-insect kills the most people in Africa annually? The hippopotamus. Name the NFL quarterback who played 10 seasons, and in each season he took his team to the championship game each year, and won seven titles in those ten years? Otto Graham. And finally what Old Testament messianic prophecy is quoted the most in the New Testament? Psalm 110, 17 times!

Our text happens to be one of those times that Psalm 110 is quoted. It is Tuesday of Holy Week; Jesus is in the temple of Jerusalem. Uniquely, this will be his last time ever in the Temple. His teachings have been interrupted by a series of entrapment questions from the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians. It is in this setting that Jesus asked the question to the Pharisees, **“What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”**

There were three things that the Jewish people, including the Pharisees, believed about the relationship between King David, Psalm 110, and the Messiah. First, they believed that the Messiah would be the son of David, a descendent of their greatest King. Second, they believed that David was inspired by the Holy Spirit when he wrote Psalm 110. And third, they believed that Psalm 110 was a messianic. These three things everyone in ancient times agreed upon!

So when the Pharisees answered the obvious, **“The son of David.”** Jesus then asked them, **“How is it then that David, speaking by the (Holy) Spirit, calls the Messiah his Lord?”** In other words, if the Messiah is to be David’s son, why does King David call the Messiah **“my Lord?”** Then Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1, **“The LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”**

It is very clear that, based on Psalm 110:1, King David believed the Messiah would come from his family line; and that the Messiah would be greater than him. In fact, David is saying that the Messiah is more than just a man; he would also be God. Why do you think the Holy Spirit guided Matthew and Luke to include the genealogy of Jesus in their Gospels? Matthew shows that Jesus, through Joseph adopting him, is the legal descendant of King David; and Dr. Luke shows that Jesus, through Mary, is a biological descendant of King David. This fact is critical

in proving that Jesus is the Messiah. To be the Messiah, one must be a legal and biological descendant of King David.

Look at the words, **“The LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”** The “right hand” refers to the position of power and authority. The only one who could possess the power and authority of God is God Himself. Here is a clear inference that the Messiah will be true God as well as a human. The declaration that his enemies will be under his feet refers to the ancient Middle Eastern custom of the victorious king placing his foot on the neck of the defeated king, symbolizing his life is in the hands of the conquering king. Put this Psalm together with the events, teachings, and miracles of Jesus, there can be no doubt: Jesus is the Messiah! Jesus is the long promised Savior.

The Messiah must be a human in order to do his work of dying and saving us from our sins. And the Messiah must be divine for his death to a sufficient sacrifice for the sins of all people and to overcome sin, death, and the devil for us. Now understand that the Jews did not deny God the Father, or His having a son, or the Holy Spirit. What many of them did deny was that **Jesus** is that Son of God.

The Pharisees understood the consequences of Jesus’ question. If Jesus is the Messiah, then he is the Son of David and their God, too. They feared the implications of this Psalm. If Jesus really is the Messiah, then He is true God. If Jesus is God, why are they resisting Him? Jesus is not only our Savior, but He is our LORD. He rules our hearts and minds. He sets the agenda, He calls the shots, and He is served by us. And if Jesus is God then it means that Jesus has the power to keep His promises, the power and ability to provide and provide, to forgive us, and be present to comfort and assure us as we walk through life. Is Jesus that to you and your life? Is Jesus your LORD, your God? Do you see Jesus as true God?

Many think that Jesus asked the Pharisees this question to silence them, to get them off of his back. Now, this might be true if Jesus were just a man. Certainly it is something we might entertain doing. But Jesus is true God. **“His ways are not our ways.”** Consider this possibility: Jesus asked the Pharisees **“Whose son is the Messiah”** not to silence them, but to reach out to them one last time, hoping they will see the light, the truth, and accept Jesus as their LORD and Savior. This question shows the great love that God has for sinners, even those who defy Him. He is always reaching out for them, trying to win their souls for eternity. And God reaches out to us today!

The Pharisees were blinded by their own work righteousness; and the Sadducees were blinded by their rationalism. The Pharisees did not want to admit that they could not save themselves. They pointed to their good works, their adherence to the laws of Moses and the Torah as making them worthy of God's love and forgiveness. The last thing they would admit was that they needed Jesus' blood for forgiveness of sins and eternal life. The Sadducees rejected faith and relied on their rationalistic intellect. Both groups were blinded from seeing Jesus as the Messiah, true man and true God, who came to save them from their sins and lead them into a new, saving relationship with God. What do you see?

Many people today do not want to accept Jesus as their LORD. They say, "I'll take his forgiveness, but I will not submit to His Will or let Him rule my life!" What blinds people today from truly seeing Jesus as their LORD? I think of our LORD'S parable of the Sower. Some refuse to study God's Word once they join a church and are easily led astray by satan. Some fall away when troubles come, when things don't go their way, or their faith is challenged. Still others are led astray by the worries of life, the pursuit of riches, and the enjoyment of their wealth, and power. Many who never knew the Word of God in the first place are so in love with their own intellect and knowledge that they fail to see hand of God revealed in their world and in their very lives.

Still others, like the Pharisees, want to trust in their own works. That is a danger that faces Christians. We can be very involved in the life of the church, active in our membership, faithful in support of congregational activities, and be a part in outreach efforts to the poor and needy. The temptation is to think we don't need to be in worship every week, in Bible study, in prayer, and in fellowship, that we don't need to have Jesus in our lives. We begin to think that our membership and activities will save us! Wrong!

Is Jesus our LORD when we make time for television, sports, or concerts but have not time to worship Him? Is Jesus our LORD when we judge someone without all the facts or refuse to reconcile and forgive others? Is Jesus our LORD when we ignore the cries for help from the jobless, the homeless, the sick, the poor, or the aging? Is Jesus our LORD when we can spend money on needless things but refuse to support His kingdom? Is Jesus our LORD when we never seek how He would want us to respond to a crisis, a challenge, or a temptation in life? Is Jesus our LORD when we do not tell others of His love or invite others to know Him? Is Jesus our LORD when we fail to follow, let alone read, His playbook or operations manual for our life? Is Jesus our LORD if we ignore, disrespect, or disobey our parents or anyone else in positions of authority? Is Jesus our LORD when we begin

to think church membership and not His blood makes us holy in God's eyes?
Maybe it is time for self-examination?

Because we are vulnerable to the temptations of this world, our works, and our flesh, Jesus offers us today His love, forgiveness, and blessings. He shows us the Messiah is God, and as such, we are to be subject to, submissive to, in service to, and obedient to Him. Jesus shows us His fulfillment of all the messianic signs and removes all doubts. Jesus is our LORD and Savior. Jesus comes to you today because He loves you. Don't resist him; don't reject him. Don't point to your good works and say, "I don't need you Jesus!" Don't let your intellect make you so clever that your mind rejects the obvious. Ask Jesus into your hearts. Ask for Jesus' forgiveness. Accept Jesus as your personal Savior. Let Jesus' blood wash away your sins today Let Jesus be the LORD of your life: follow Jesus, listen to Jesus, and begin to do good works to show your thankfulness that Jesus is your Savior and your LORD.

Jesus wants you to be a part of His kingdom today because He loves you! Don't be like the Pharisees or the Sadducees who were so blinded by their own self-righteousness and rationalistic intellect that they did not reach out to Jesus for His love and forgiveness. "**The Kingdom of God is near!**" Now is the time to enter it! Let your life of faith and works show that JESUS IS YOUR LORD! IJN, amen.