

The Question To End All Questions

Matthew 22:41-46

MPS Jesus is Lord; the Son of God became the Son of Man, so that by faith in Him we might become a child of God.

OBJ Every person should believe in Jesus because of three doctrinal truths of His person.

READ Matthew 22:41-46

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴²saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? ⁴⁵If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” ⁴⁶And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. **Matthew 22:41-46**

INTRO What is a “question that ends all questions”? It is a question that exposes more than it inquires, and satisfies by its answer to silence other arguments. This is what we see in our passage for today. After three questions from the religious leaders, Jesus poses a question to the religious leaders not to win an argument, but to reveal who He is for them and for the people. Jesus’ question would prove to be the question to end all questions.

.42 Jesus asked, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They answered, “The son of David.” This was no surprise to Jesus. This was exactly as He knew they would answer. He was the King that God chose to lead the people to victory and bring peace, to its greatest expansion and largest boundaries of the kingdom, and the heights of Israel’s greatness in every way. **A son in the lineage of David was one of greatest promise for the people of Israel.**

.43-45 Jesus poses a follow-up question, “He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? Jesus cites Psalm 110, recognized as David speaking, and asks, ⁴⁵If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” Jesus strikes at the heart of the Jewish faith and their identity as God’s people. They celebrated a son who would come in David’s lineage because that represented the height of greatness for the Jewish people as their greatest king. But that very King stated that the One who would come would be His Lord! **David, the King who all Israel considered the greatest, states that the One who will come is superior to him!**¹

“**If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?**” Jesus exposes the contradiction of the Jewish leaders’ argument that claims the lineage and superiority of King David, while rejecting the One King David says IS superior to Him. Jesus’ question exposed them by saying, “the one you claim identifies and validates the confession you reject and refuse to make.” Jesus clarifies who He is by the religious leaders own Scripture and highest king.

The religious leaders believed in the “Christ” who would come from God. Their hope was set on His coming. But their conflict with Jesus centered on the fact that they rejected Him as the Christ from God. It was not so much that they had considered Jesus, His teachings, the work of his ministry and miracles, and all about Him, to find Him wanting or in some way inadequate or insufficient. Instead, they had built such a religious system that so narrowly defined God, that their hearts were hardened to the true work of God in the revelation of the person of Jesus Christ. **The Jews rejected Jesus out of religious blindness that hardened them to God, which centered on their anticipation of a political victor that would fix their immediate situation more than a spiritual savior to make them right with God.**

ILLUS This is not unlike the one who says, “I’m a Christian.”, but they do not hold to the teachings and commands of Jesus Christ! **Jehovah’s Witness will tell you they are “Christian”.** They will tell you that they believe Jesus is the son of God.

¹ R. T. France, [Matthew: An Introduction and Commentary](#), vol. 1, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 325. France explains, “The term my Lord (which in Hebrew is not the same as ‘the Lord’ representing the name of God) clearly implies that the one so described is in a position superior to the speaker, David. And when David used that term he was inspired by the Spirit (literally just ‘in [the] Spirit’), i.e. he spoke as a prophet. So the Messiah is divinely designated as superior to David.”



But their “Jesus” is not the same as the orthodox, historical Jesus of the Bible. They believe that He is a created being, not begotten, and that he is neither equal to or one with God the Father. This opposes the most fundamental statements of faith of the ages, namely the **Nicene Creed**, which states of Jesus; “**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**” Therefore, this means that Jehovah’s Witness are not Christians according to the Bible and the revelation of God in Jesus Christ.

Mormons will tell you, “I am a Christian”, and that they believe in Jesus.² They do believe in Jesus as a historical man, but what they believe about Jesus is nothing like what the Bible teaches about Him. James(2:19) records that the demons hold a higher view of Jesus as God than the Mormons claim. What they mean by saying “we believe in Jesus” is not in accord with sound doctrine according to the Bible. Mormons hold the prophecy and revelation of Joseph Smith in higher regard than Jesus Christ, because they use the Book of Mormon to interpret the Bible, instead of the other way around. There is far more that could be said here that distinguishes a Biblical doctrine of Christianity from Mormonism, but in summary it simply means we can, and should, say that Mormons are not Christians according to the Bible.

People will tell you, “I am a Christian.” But their life looks nothing like the One in whose Name they claim. I’m not speaking of perfection, but priority, allegiance, and loyalty. Sometimes this is an issue of discipleship, where one needs to grow in their understanding of the Bible and trust to obey. But very often it is a matter of salvation, that the understanding of Jesus they have bought into is not the one the Bible teaches one must put their faith in to be born again. This is why false gospels are so deceptive, they use similar or same words but with completely different meanings.

APPL This is critically important for us because we live in a *highly religious culture* where it is easy to default to what I call a *religious mindset*. A religious mindset tells you that all are the same and equal, that all all lead to the same place, and have equal reward & glory. It deescalates any debate because it does not want to push the conversation to a point where one must excel over the other.

If I were to ask you, “**What does Biblical illiteracy + minimal giving + non-participation equal?**” Statistically, it equals today’s average Christian. This is what a *religious mindset* produces; in giving it claims what God expects of everyone else, but not of me because “He gets me”. Bible verses get used like a a prescription to to heal what ails you, so when I need it, it gets prescribed. But seldom are they ever truly believed. And church participation is more like a game of frustrating “whack-a-mole”, you just never know where they will show up next.

Jesus says, “**NO! ALL religions are not the same!**” Christianity holds an exclusive faith in Jesus Christ because He is exclusively worthy. ALL are invited. But ONLY those who believe to trust in Jesus are welcomed in. Reject any hint of a religious mindset, Christ-follower, and ask yourself, “**Does my whole life testify, ‘Jesus is Lord’?**”

Some love to chirp, “Doctrine divides.” And the fact is, it does divide. Faithful doctrine divides truth from error, discernment from deception, and faithfulness from fallacy. This is why the writer of Hebrews(4:12) states,

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

If not doctrine, what does anyone have to preach? The response is, “preach the gospel!” Friends, this is EXACTLY Jesus’ point. Because the religious leaders cherry-picked the passages they chose to believe, and disregarded the others, they deceived themselves and the crowds of people that followed them. This is why Paul warns against teaching “*any different doctrine*”(1 Timothy 1:3), urges Timothy to “*keep a close watch on*” his doctrine(1 Timothy 4:16) and instructs Titus(2:1) to exclusively “*teach what accords with sound doctrine.*” **There is no gospel absent of faithful doctrine. Doctrine defines to delineate and distinguish**, so that the one to whom you put all your hope and faith is real, and not some created image of intellect, philosophy, emotion, of craftsmanship nor human ability. **Doctrine defines so one can discern what is truth according to God’s word, to determine what is God’s will for the way you should live.** There is no gospel absent of faithful

² <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/mormons-jesus/>



doctrine, because you don't know who did what and for what reason. The next time someone tells you, "Doctrine divides.", tell them, "Amen, the wheat from the tares, every time." [There is no gospel absent of faithful doctrine.](#)

Doctrine teaches and discerns for us:

Jesus is Lord; the Son of God became the Son of Man, so that by faith in Him we might become a child of God.

Jesus' question is the question to end all questions because it exposes the fallacy of the religious leaders by the one they claim in their argument. And that's why they did not dare ask Him any more questions after that day. But the greater question for us today is this; **"What do you think about the Christ; have you confessed Jesus as Lord?" Have you answered this question in your mind and settled it in your heart? What you believe about Jesus is the question to end all questions.**

OBJ Three Doctrinal Truths that distinguish Jesus as Lord and commend one's faith to believe and trust in Him.

When Jesus questioned the religious leaders, He was not being combative toward them. Instead, he was beckoning upon them to see and believe all that He had done to reveal who He was. God does not demand blind faith. He wants you to know WHO Jesus is, so you too can put your faith in Him and believe.

1. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

When the religious leaders confronted Jesus, they did not question his humanity, but did not believe in His deity. Through the ages many have questioned both His deity and humanity, but none with any sufficient proof to discredit Him.

The Scriptures teach that Jesus was fully human. He was conceived in the womb of a virgin, Mary, by Holy Spirit. In contrast to a recent assertion that I read, this is not invitro nor surrogacy. Neither was it some measure of immortality between the gods and humans. Luke(1:35) explicitly states that what took place was the work of Holy Spirit upon Mary so that *"the child to be born could be called holy."* Salvation is only from the Lord, and in the virgin birth it is made possible for full deity and humanity to unite.³ We also see Jesus' humanity in the gospels, where he grew tired and hungry, grew and developed as a child(Luke 2:52), and experienced emotions(John 11:35). The one aspect of Jesus' humanity that separates him from all others is his sinlessness; that though tempted in every way as we are, He was without sin.(Hebrews 4:15) Historically, it is a fool's game to deny Jesus' full humanity, as many extra-biblical sources also write of him.

The Scriptures also reveal that Jesus was fully divine. John opens his gospel by introducing Jesus as the eternal Word who took on flesh and dwelt among us.(1:1) John the Baptist testified to Jesus' deity twice. He was the first to recognize his presence when he was in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth, and Mary, now pregnant with Jesus, came to visit.(Luke 1:43) He also culminated his ministry by announcing Jesus as the Christ come from God.(John 1:29) The demons knew He was God and obeyed Him.(Luke 4:41) Even the Centurion who stood at his cross and watched him draw his last breath said, "Truly this was the son of God."(Matthew 27:54) From beginning to end, the testimony to Jesus' deity remains in all who encountered Him.

IF Jesus were not fully God, He would not be worthy to be Lord. If He were not fully man, He would not qualify as the perfect, substitutionary lamb of God. But we have a great High Priest who can sympathize with us in every way, both as a man who was tempted and yet without sin, and as God who came to willingly lay down His life That He might give life to all who believe.(Hebrews 2:17-18)

2. Jesus is Messiah sent from God to save from sin.

The religious leaders did not believe in Jesus because they rejected Him as God's Messiah. This was the heart of the issue Jesus exposed with his question. They believed the Messiah who would come from God would be a son of David, but when He showed up, they rejected Him. From the New Testament record, one thing that is clear is that they rejected Him because He threatened their religious system. Jesus was focused on accomplishing the Father's Will of atoning for sin and fulfilling the promise and purpose of God's Messiah.

³ For more on this, see Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, Second Edition, (Nashville: Zondervan Academic, 2020) p663f.



Jesus' title as Christ means He fulfilled all the Old Testament promises of God's Messiah. One of the most comprehensive prophecies of Jesus as Messiah comes from Isaiah 53, which tells that he took and bore the punishment for our sins on the cross. Later in Romans, Paul writes that Jesus was put forth as a propitiation for sin; "*whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*" (Romans 3:25) John states the same in his letter; "*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" (1 John 4:10; see also 2:2) **God sent Jesus as Messiah to be the atoning sacrifice for sin, and Jesus was focused on the Father's mission every day of his life on earth, all the way to death on a cross.**

3. Jesus is Lord, worthy of your whole life and full allegiance.

Finally, this account in Matthew's gospel is one of Jesus' claims to Lordship in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. From the announcement of his birth (Luke 2:11) to the culmination of His ministry, Jesus proved that He is Lord in very word and deed. **What does it mean to say that "Jesus is Lord"?** The title recognizes that He rules as Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth; He is the all-powerful God.⁴ Jesus came as the Christ of God and revealed Himself as Lord of all.

Jesus was fully God and fully man, who came as the Christ to save from sin, and reveal Himself as Lord of all. But the point of doctrine is not simply to know about Him, but to know Jesus. **How can you know Jesus as Lord?** He taught in such a way as no other to claim it, worked with power and might like none other to show it, willingly offered up His life to die and rise from the grave to prove it, and ascended into Heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father where He rules and reigns today! **Jesus is the Christ, and Lord of all.** With this in mind, it leads us to the question to end all questions; **Have you put your faith in Jesus to become a child of God?**

Jesus is Lord; the Son of God became the Son of Man, so that by faith in Him we might become a child of God.

⁴ Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, Second Edition. (Nashville: Zondervan Academic, 2020) p679.

