

Daily Bible Study

“When God Asked His Own Question”

Mark 12:35 - 37

February 19– February 25, 2012

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –We come this week in our study of the Gospel of Mark and take as our text **Mark 12:35-37**. If you remember from the immediate preceding sections of **Mark 12** we have seen Jesus on the receiving end of many questions. We have noted that the majority of these questions were not completely genuine and sincere as were told at least in one place specifically, the questioners were trying to *catch Jesus in His words* (**Mark 12:13**). The text before us this week is one in which we see the tables turned if you will as Jesus Himself starts asking the questions. Make no mistake, even before Jesus starts with the initiative of asking the questions we see He has already silenced His opponents with clear and penetrating truth. His answers have been such that we are told at the end of **verse 34**, *“But after that no one dared question Him”*. This account is found in Matthew, Mark and Luke and each of them records the incident in their personal manner and combined we get a full picture of the event. One example would be in the conclusion of the story as we find the reaction of the audience to the words of Jesus recorded. Luke is silent; Mark writes, *“And the common people heard Him gladly”*; and Matthew, *“And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”* As we move through the week we will see this wonderful account of Jesus declaring in no uncertain terms that He is the Messiah, and The Messiah is not merely a man but is actually the covenant God Yahweh, in the flesh. Read our text for the week, **Mark 12:35-37** *“Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’ Therefore David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?” And the common people heard Him gladly.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, teach me Your Word; help me learn the “greatest” commandment.

TUESDAY – **Mark 12: 35** *“Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?”* As we begin this new section of Scripture there may appear to be no connection with that which immediately precedes it. Mark’s only recorded detail is that the scene was *in the temple*. Whether or not there is a connection here we cannot be dogmatic but if we look at **verses 28–34** and **verses 35–37** we may very well see a

link. In the previous section (**verses 28–34**) as Jesus summarizes the law, He emphasized *love of God and neighbor* as being the fulfillment of the law and said *there is no commandment greater than these*. Now, in our current text we find Jesus is putting this *love* into practice in the most important way. Take note, this can teach us a bit of what it means to *love others*. He is giving them what they need by directing the attention of his audience to faith in Himself. There reason this is so crucial is that Jesus knows that apart from faith in Him, apart from an understanding of who He is and why He came to earth, no scribe, Pharisee, Sadducee, or anyone else can be saved from their sin and its consequences. Although we know that most of those Jesus' question was addressed too continued to harden themselves and remained in their rejection and unbelief, we learn there may be some who thought on, meditated on Jesus words such as the man to whom Jesus said, "*You are not far from the kingdom of God*" (**Mark 12:34**). Only God knows but if that man came to Jesus in saving faith and was brought completely into the kingdom because of the words of Christ. In our text here we see that regardless of whether the listeners were hard and rejecting or curious and accepting of Jesus words He most lovingly points them to ponder the question of *How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?* It is also important to notice that Jesus is holding conversation with these men publicly for the very last time, and He leaves the conversation in their memory by focusing on the most important question of all. We need to learn from our Lord how important it is and how it is the most loving thing we can do to point others to Jesus and His person and work on the behalf of sinners. Read **Acts 4:12**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me realize the most loving thing I can do for anyone is point them to Jesus and tell of His perfect life and sacrificial death for sinners who repent and believe.

WEDNESDAY – Mark 12:35-36 "*Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, 'How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'*" It is clear and obvious at least to us with eyes to see that Jesus is referring to Himself when He is speaking about "*Christ...the Son of David.*" In this scene we find Jesus the master teacher and communicator phrases His question in "the third person" so that these Pharisees would be able to give an answer without affirming that Jesus is Himself the Christ. He is trying to show them truth and facts matter regardless of how one "feels" about them for in fact, the Pharisees were sickened, disgusted, and angered over the very thought and idea that Jesus would be the Christ. The expected *Messiah of God* (of which in this text the word "*Christ*" is the Greek translation) was, indeed, *the Son of David*. This fact was one that the religious leaders both knew and taught from Sacred Scripture. Examples of this fact would be such as the one here in **Mark 12:35**, "*how is it that the scribes say*" and **John 7:42**. This truth is definitely one that is the teaching of Sacred Scripture (**2 Samuel 7:12-13, Psalm 78:68–72, 89:3-4, 20, 24, 28, 34–37, Amos 9:11, Micah 5:2**). But we know that when these leaders heard the truth as related to this

Jesus before them and heard Jesus called “*the Son of David*”, they hated it (**Matthew 12:23-24, 21:15-16**). The part that made it worse for them was the fact that they knew Jesus had never made objections to receiving the title “*Son of David*.” He didn’t rebuke His disciples or the children when they had called Him this and recognized Him as the *Messiah*, the *Son of David*, or *He who comes in the name of the Lord*. Jesus now in this teaching is making a deeper point than to merely have folk recognize that He is *the Son of David*; He wants them to see the significance of that reality. Who exactly is *The Son of David*? Is he merely an earthly descendant of King David or more? Many people have no problem accepting Jesus as an earthly descendant of David and therefore, his son, but Jesus is about to clarify that *the Son of David* is more than an earthly relative, He is a heavenly one, the very *Son of God* and the *Lord God Himself*. It is necessary and important to realize and believe He is man, but equally important and necessary is the fact, He is also God! Sadly, this truth should have been clear to the scribes, from the Old Testament Scriptures and today as people who have God’s word in both the OT and NT there remains no obscurity to the Divine and human nature of Jesus Christ but the obscurity that comes from a heart of unbelief. It is sad and tragic but also a fact that rejection and refusal to bow to the truth and believe in the Lord of the truth is fatal and results in the loss of a man’s soul in hell for eternity.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, help me to see and believe in the Lord Jesus as both fully man and fully God. Give me faith Holy Spirit to continue to trust in Jesus alone for salvation. Thank You Jesus that You in fact are the Lord God, the Messiah of God and David’s greater Son!*

THURSDAY – **Mark 12:35-37a** “*Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’ Therefore David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?”* After laying a foundation for our thinking concerning what the whole of Scripture says about the person of Jesus, the *Son of David*, we now get to the main point of this particular passage. Jesus has established that *the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David* and now He says if that is indeed so, then why did David say what he did? First we see that what he said, he said *by the Holy Spirit*. This means that what David said in **Psalms 110:1** was being said under the controlling influence or inspiration of The Holy Spirit. David was in fact *himself* speaking but it was God the Holy Spirit who actually guided his pen; this is clear proof of the inspiration (God breathing) of Holy Scripture by the person of The Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:20-21**). In this Psalm, which was without argument understood as a Messianic, David makes a distinction between YHWH and Adonai. Here YHWH (The Covenant Name of God) is addressing David’s Adonai (David’s Lord and Master); God is speaking to His Messiah, Jesus the Covenant Mediator. He is promising the Messiah, the Mediator between God and man, incredible preeminence, power, authority, and

majesty (*Sit at My right hand*) that would only be proper for an individual who by nature of His person existed from all eternity past as well as future. Suffice to say, only God would be given such a place of honor and power (**Ephesians 1:20–23, Philippians 2:5–11, Hebrews 2:9, Revelation 5:1–10, 12:5**). He (Messiah) is told *Sit at My right hand*. The *My* refers to YHWH, the Father. This anthropomorphic phrase (a phrase which speaks of God in human bodily terms) was meant to show the Messiah's place of power, authority, and preeminence at the Father's right hand. This was a place reserved for royalty and here we see the picture of the King of the universe sharing His throne with another; namely, His Messiah (see - **Mark 14:62**). *Till I make Your enemies Your footstool* continues the quote from **Psalms 110:1**. It speaks of YHWH's victory on behalf of His Messiah like we also see in **Psalms 2**. The NT further reveals and elaborates this truth in **1 Corinthians 15:24–27** and carries it ultimately in the eternal kingdom of the Father (**vs. 28**).

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, help me to truly understand the person of Jesus The Messiah. May I see Him as the One who perfectly pleased You in all that He did and that He both lived that perfect life and died the death I deserved in my place. Thanks for exalting Him over all as the victor.*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 12:37 “Therefore David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?” And the common people heard Him gladly.” When Jesus says, *how is He then his Son?* He does not mean “the Messiah can’t be David’s son,” but rather, “The Messiah can’t be David’s son merely in the sense of his physical descendant.” He is far more than that. He is the root as well as the offspring of David (**Isaiah 11:1, 10, Revelation 22:16**). Jesus’ rhetorical question points His listeners to the only real answer: that Messiah is both *David’s Son* and *David’s Lord* at the same time. This also says that the Messiah is both God (*David’s Lord*) and man (*David’s Son*) (**Romans 1:3-4, 2 Timothy 2:8**). Jesus is saying, “you found fault with me accepting the praises of those who called me ‘*the Son of David*.’ I am the *Son of David* in the most exalted sense, for *David himself* called me ‘*my Lord*.’ Whoever rejects me rejects David’s Lord.” Jesus was so confident here Beloved, only days before agony and death He was sure the way of the cross would lead Him home, to glory and the crown. Finally, the people seemed to be enjoying what they heard.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: *Glory to You Son of David; You conquered sin & death for Your people!*