

The Challengers are Silenced – Part 3

Matthew 22:15-46 - NCBC, May 16, 2021

Main Point: **Jesus silences all challenges to His supremacy.**

Review:

- Round 1: The challenge of a competing allegiance. (15-22)
- Round 2: The challenge of an earthly perspective. (23-33)
- Round 3: The challenge of a selfish arrogance (34-40)
 - False Choice: Either divide or abolish the law!
 - Jesus: The whole law is from love, and for love.
 - Therefore, nothing is more important than loving God and others.
- Victory: The supremacy of the victorious Christ! (41-46)
 - False Choice: Either son of David or Lord!
 - Jesus: The Messiah is both fully human and fully God.
 - Therefore, be in awe of the royal glory and power of Jesus!

Application: **Worship Jesus the Christ as your Lord!**

Opening Announcements:

- **Compassion Sunday.** Today we have opportunity to pray for orphans and help sponsor orphans around the world through Compassion International. May God help us pursue **James 1:27** together through this ministry partnership.

<<Turn Your Eyes>>



Look to Jesus friends! Nothing in this world can ever satisfy your soul forever. No human relationship can give you identity. No amount of wealth or earthly pleasure will satisfy you.

So we've gathered this morning to turn our eyes upon Jesus ...that we might see the glory of God in the face of Jesus the Christ, and truly live!



The Scripture before us today is **Matthew chapter 22**, so please open your copy of God's Word to **Matthew chapter 22**. If you do not have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand to receive a Bible this morning.

And while you are preparing to read Scripture, I'm excited to announce that one of our Global Outreach Partners, Peter Lindell, will be preaching a 2-week message on Evangelism for us starting next Sunday! We are thankful for how God has already used Peter over the last 2 years to equip and encourage our church leaders in our witness, and now I'm excited for all of us to benefit from Peter's preaching!

But next Sunday will be extra special since we also will,



Introduce you to our current candidate for our **Associate Pastor of Music and Worship**. Tysin, Candace, and Abbott Smith will be visiting us next weekend from Emporia, Kansas!

Tysin currently serves as the *Pastor of Music and Administration* at Flint Hills Bible Church.¹ In March, Tysin's Senior Pastor called asking if we were still seeking an Associate Pastor. He has been praying with us throughout our search, and he called to recommend Tysin for our consideration since some of their son's present health needs now require them to relocate to be closer to their medical providers.

So for the past couple of months, our leaders have enjoyed getting to know Tysin and Candace and Abbott, and now we are ready to move to the next step of our candidating process which is a public weekend visit where our entire church family can experience his ministry leadership.

To be clear – we are not yet putting Tysin forward for a vote. Next weekend is simply the next step in Tysin's

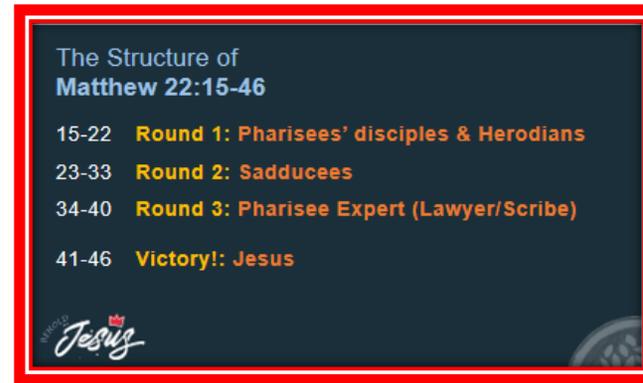
¹ <https://www.flinthillsbc.org/>

application process where we can all personally observe and experience his pastoral and musical leadership.

Tysin is a pastor who loves to pray, preach, and counsel, who is also very gifted musically. Tysin loves to equip God's people to sing together! Surprisingly, Tysin recognizes that his own singing voice is not his strongest quality, so Tysin prefers not to serve as the lead vocalist during Sunday worship. Rather, Tysin sees his role as equipping the saints and raising up other lead vocalists and musicians from the congregation that can serve our singing and musical worship together each Sunday.

So this week you will receive an email introducing Tysin to you. After reviewing this information, please submit your questions to Chad Leman so we can make sure that next Sunday's Q and A during the 9:30 hour can be as helpful as possible for all of us.

Please start praying for Tysin, Candace, and Abbott Smith. Pray our church family can be a real encouragement to them next weekend. And pray for God's merciful clarity on all these important decisions.



Now today we return to **Matthew 22** for part 3 of our study of this verbal boxing match between Jesus and the Jewish leaders on the Tuesday before Jesus' death.

Remember Round 1 was a challenge of a competing allegiance. The Pharisees' disciples and the Herodians asked about paying taxes to try to trick Jesus into choosing between Rome or Israel. But Jesus wisely answered to give back to the world what it owns and give back to God what He owns. Pay your taxes, but only worship God!

Then the Sadducees came in Round 2 with a challenge of an earthly perspective. They used a hypothetical scenario regarding levirate marriage² to try to trap Jesus. But Jesus silenced these secular liberals by teaching how the resurrection changes our nature and our relationships. In our resurrected state, we will be full of glory and free from the presence and pollution of sin!!

Then last week we began Round 3, where one of the Pharisee's experts tries to trick Jesus into dividing or abolishing Moses' law. And this is where we pick up our

² Deuteronomy 25:5-10

study today, focusing a bit more on what it practically looks like to love God and love our neighbor before we move to Round 4, where Jesus ultimately proves that He is the Christ, the Son of God and the Son of David, who deserves our whole-person devotion and love.

44 “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? 45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” 46 And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.



So please stand in honor of the reading of God’s Word, as I begin reading from **verse 34 of Matthew 22**, in the English Standard Version:

The Scripture before us in **Matthew 22** presents a convincing witness for how,



34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” 41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

Jesus silences all challenges to His supremacy.

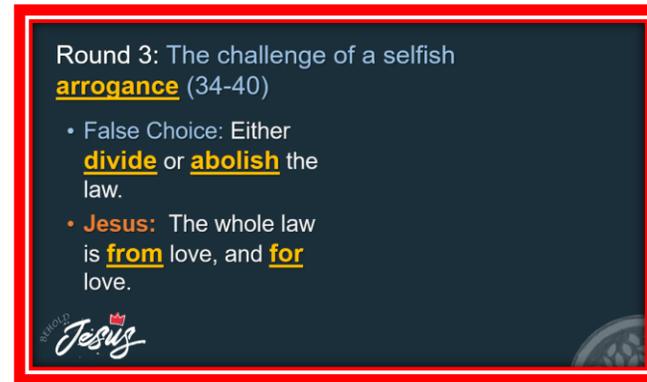
Nothing on earth can effectively compete with Jesus. Nothing in our lives is more important than Jesus. Jesus is the most supreme, most beautiful, most glorious object of worship and devotion possible for the human soul!

Another way to express the victorious supremacy of Jesus over all other challengers is to hear Jesus’ answer to the lawyer in **verse 37**, when He says that the greatest and first commandment is that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind.

In other words, if you only obey this command to love God with all that you are, you will have done all that God requires from you. This is the greatest simplifier in life. Nothing in your life is more important than whether you love God. For when you love God with all that you are, you will consequently obey all of the other commands of God for your soul.

But if you fail in this one most important love, then even if you do everything else right in your life you will never please God. You can be praised from others, you can memorize all the Scriptures, and be an expert in systematic theology, you can be the most generous person, but if you do not love God your life is worthless!³ For loving God is the entire essence of what it means to be righteous. Loving God is what pleases God.⁴ Loving God is true living. Loving God perfectly is why God created you and revealed Himself to you through His spoken and incarnate Word.⁵

So let's quickly review what we learned last week from this lawyer's,



Challenge from a selfish arrogance.

In **verse 36**, the lawyer asked Jesus which of Moses' laws was the most important for God's people to obey? Remember he was trying to trap Jesus by forcing Him to either artificially divide God's law into major or minor points, or completely abolish God's law by replacing it with some new teaching.

But in **verse 37** Jesus quoted the Jewish *Shema* from **Deuteronomy chapter 6** – which every Jew recited twice daily, saying,

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.

The most important duty for your life is that you truly love God. What matters more than anything else is that every part of your life is united in this supreme devotion to knowing and loving God.

³ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

⁴ C.f. Hebrews 11:6

⁵ John 1:1,14

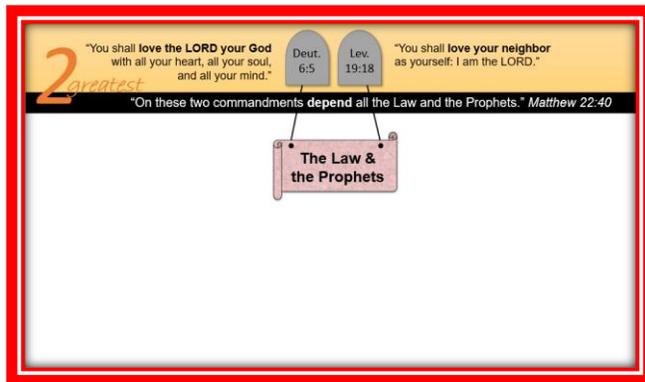
And then Jesus quoted **Leviticus 19:18**,

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

This command is *like* the first – meaning its inseparable in its character, but it is *second*, meaning it follows after, or is the result, or consequence of obeying the first command.

On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

In other words, all the Law and the Prophets – all of the holy Scriptures – are a unified whole. You can't divide God's words, and you can't abolish them. The whole law hangs on love, or if you're taking notes, the whole law is from love, and for love.



⁶ C.f. Matthew 23 where Jesus pronounces woes on the religious legalism of the Pharisees

⁷ Romans 10:3-4; Colossians 2:21-23

All the Law and the Prophets is an expression of, or revelation of, love for God and love for others. Therefore, God's law is always more about love than rule-following.

Now if you're a recovering legalist like me... don't miss this! Because legalism always puts the "emphásis" on the wrong "sýllable" of God's word. Legalism externalizes our relationship with God, and makes it about outward appearance, customs and culture, and the sacrifices of rule-following more than love.⁶ Legalism measures religious maturity based on comparisons of conduct rather than character since legalism merely uses religion as an expression of self-worship.⁷

But Jesus' answer is clear: God's Word comes to create God-lovers rather than rule-followers. Love is never communicated by mechanically following a script!

Let me say it this way: God's Word was never given to be an encyclopedia of Christian behavior. Biblical counselors beware! God's Word wasn't given just so you could find a verse to fix your marriage, or fix your anxiety, or fix your life. Sure, God's Word is sufficient and relevant for every aspect of our life and godliness.⁸ But the Law and the Prophets are first and foremost God's love letter to you...so that you would know His love for you and respond from your heart with a whole-person love for Him and love for others.

This is so important! Once you understand that the Scriptures communicate God's desire that we love Him and love others, it changes how you define sin!⁹

⁸ 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

⁹ After all, Romans 3:20; c.f. 4:15; 5:13; Galatians 3:19, 22 all teach that one of God's purposes for His law was to imprison all of humanity under

Matthew 22:40 teaches that sin is a love-disorder before it ever breaks a rule. Lawlessness is nothing more than practical expressions of lovelessness towards God and others. Or to say this yet another way, **Matthew 22:40** teaches that the essence of all sin is seeking life and fulfillment apart from loving God and loving others!

So do you see the genius of Jesus' reply to this religious expert? Jesus pierced through all the external posturing of religion...and says, do you want to really know what is the greatest duty of man? It's not about how many Sundays a year you attend church, or what percentage of income you tithe, or about how you dress, or about how many hours you volunteer, or how much of Scripture you can quote verbatim. Instead, your greatest duty before God is to love God. All of God's Word is wrapped together in this two-fold command that you would first love God, and then love others like you love yourself!

Now of course, this requires we properly define love. For biblical love is far more than a fuzzy feeling or desire.

So if you had to summarize biblical love in just one-word, what word would you use? What is your best one-word definition of biblical love?

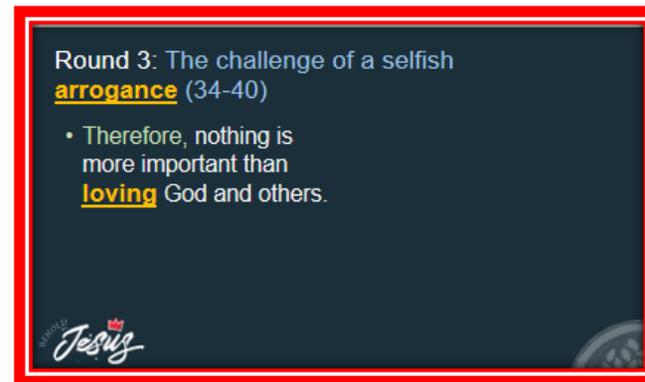
Not affections, and not delight...although certainly biblical love often includes such emotions. Perhaps a good one-word summary for biblical love would be the word, "giving?" For to love according to the Scripture is to sacrificially give of yourself for the other's eternal good. Towards God, love looks like worship and faith. Towards others, love looks like hospitality and righteousness. But

the conviction of sin; to make us aware of our sin; 1 John 3:4 defines sin as any breaking of God's law.

love is always an expression of sacrificial generosity for the sake of the other's eternal pleasure and joy.

So then with this definition of love, let's walk through **verse 37** and seek to practically apply it to our own lives.

Jesus' answer to selfish arrogance in **verse 37-39** simply means,



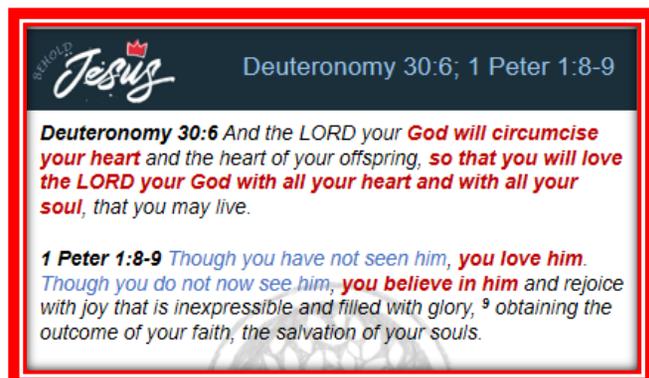
Nothing is more important than loving God and others.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Perfect, complete, unwavering worship, faith, and love for God. The most important duty for you is that every part of your personhood would find its supreme devotion in loving God. All that is required of you is that you would sacrificially give your entire life back to knowing God and treasuring Jesus above all other people or things.¹⁰

¹⁰ Romans 12:1-2; c.f. Ecclesiastes 12:13

Now if you're like me... such a command imprisons me under the curse of unattainable perfection¹¹... until I keep reading God's love letter and I get to,



Deuteronomy 30 verse 6 which promises that,

The Lord your God will circumcise your heart ... so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Hallelujah for the sovereign grace of God which enables what He commands!¹² In **1 Peter 1**, love for God is equated with saving faith, or believing in God for salvation. Therefore, **Deuteronomy 30** is simply a preview of the New Covenant promises of God, where God promises to,

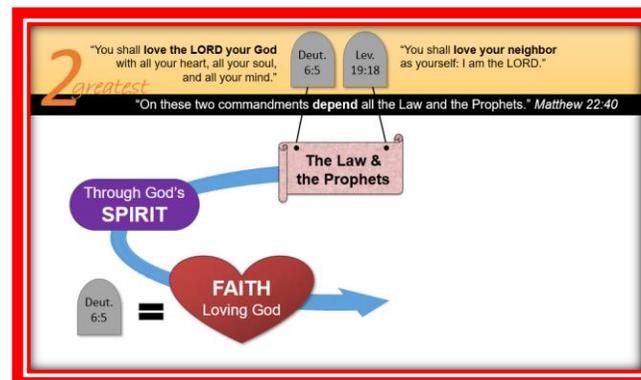
*... remove the heart of stone ... and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*¹³

¹¹ Galatians 5:22

¹² C.f. Philippians 2:13

¹³ Ezekiel 36:26-27; c.f. Jeremiah 31:33-34

¹⁴ Psalm 19:7; John 12:50



So when God's Spirit sovereignly engages the human heart with God's Word, the result is saving faith. The heart that once resisted and hated God now loves God and is made spiritually alive!¹⁴ For when the Spirit of God uses the Word of God¹⁵ to cause a soul to be born again,¹⁶ the heart is spiritually circumcised from its self-love and the first commandment is satisfied by the work of God alone in the sinner's heart.

Dear friends... this is the marvelous salvation of our God! Only God can open the eyes of hearts blinded by sin so that we can behold the beauty of God's glory in the face of Jesus, and truly treasure Him above all others!¹⁷

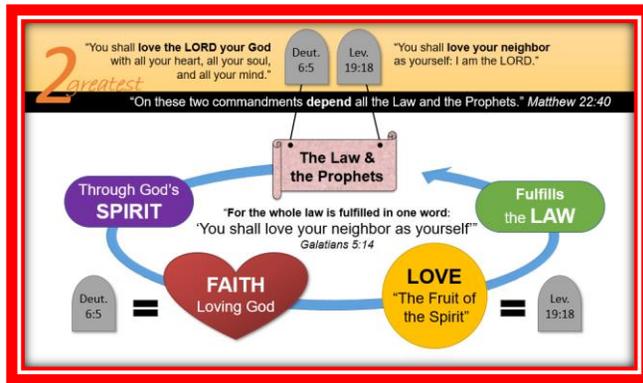
Can you honestly testify that you love God this morning? Has the Spirit of God awakened faith, or love for God, as your greatest ruling obsession in life?

If you're not sure, the proof of saving faith or loving God, is,

¹⁵ John 6:63; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23

¹⁶ John 12:50; 1 Peter 1:3-5

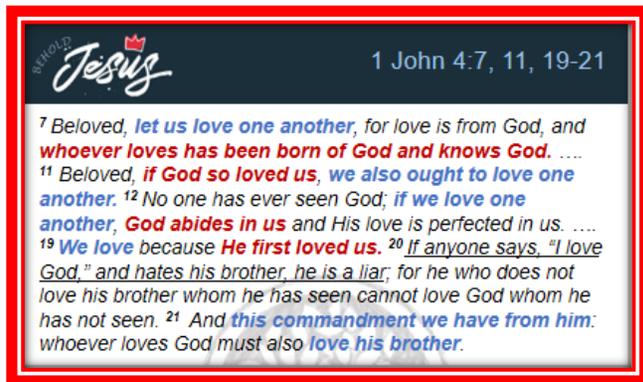
¹⁷ 2 Corinthians 4:4-6, c.f. 3:14-18



Loving your neighbor as yourself, which Galatians calls the “fruit of the Spirit.”¹⁸ For it is a Spirit-powered love for others... a Spirit-powered giving of ourselves for the eternal good of others... that makes our invisible love for God visible in outward expression.

It is this Spirit-powered fulfillment of the second commandment that then fulfills all righteousness and gives testimony that the Law of God has accomplished its complete 2-fold purpose in our lives.

The letter of 1 John repeatedly argues this reality:¹⁹



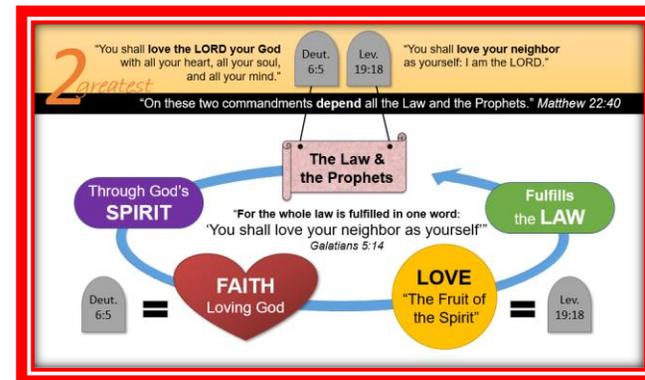
¹⁸ Galatians 5:22
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1 John chapter 4 verse 7 states,

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God...

Verse 11: *Beloved if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.*

Verse 19: *We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him, whoever loves God must also love his brother.*



So then no Pharisee, no matter how respectable their right doctrine or right living, can ever please God apart from having received a supernatural love for God and for others. For the whole purpose of God’s Word is not fulfilled, until the human heart has been so transformed

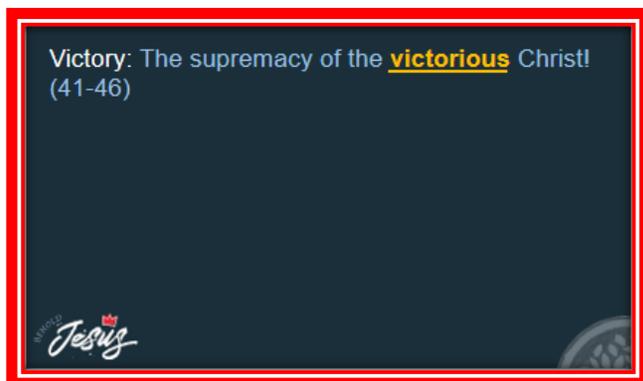
¹⁹ C.f. 1 John 3:10-11, 14-15

by God's love that it joyfully overflows in a Spirit-powered love for others' eternal good.

Nothing is more important for you and me than that we receive this God-given righteousness by faith in the person and work of Jesus! *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes!*²⁰

So will you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead? Loved ones, you must call upon the name of the Lord to be saved!²¹ No amount of human law-keeping will ever be able to please God.

After silencing these legalistic leaders, Jesus now takes an offensive position to ultimately prove,



The supremacy of the victorious Christ!

And this is such a fitting way for us to conclude **Matthew 22**... for only when God's Spirit shows you Jesus for who

²⁰ Romans 10:4

²¹ Romans 10:9-13

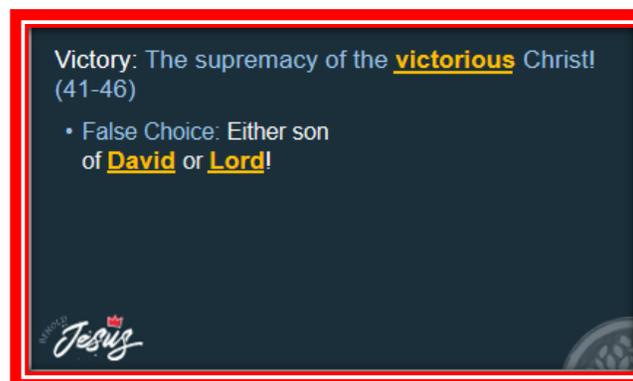
²² C.f. Matthew 16:23; Colossians 3:2

He truly is, will your soul love and treasure Him above all others!

In **verse 41** Jesus sees the Pharisees huddling again, and so He asks them His knock-out question in **verse 42**,

*What do you think about the Christ ... the Messiah?
Whose son is he?*

Now this question ironically presents,



A **False Choice** similar to the earlier controversies initiated by the religious leaders. Jesus offers a false dichotomy to expose these leader's unbelief. Is the Christ either a son of David or the son of God? Is the Messiah human or is He Lord?

Now their quick answer exposes their thinking and theology was limited to human means and forms.²² For while the Scriptures clearly communicated that the Messiah would be a descendent of David,²³ the

²³ C.f. 2 Samuel 7:11b-16; Psalm 89:3-4; Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15-16

Scriptures also clearly revealed the Messiah would be the eternal Son of God²⁴ – God Himself in human flesh who deserved worship from human hearts.

And to prove this, Jesus quotes **Psalm 110 verse 1**, asking,

How is it then, that David, in the Spirit, calls the Messiah Lord, saying, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet?

You see – the Jews rightly understood **Psalm 110** as a Messianic Psalm. Every orthodox Jew knew David wrote **Psalm 110**, and that he wrote it under the inspiration of God's Spirit as Scripture. The Jews taught that **Psalm 110** spoke of the Messiah's ultimate conquest and victory – when all God's enemies would be silenced. But now Jesus' helps them see that **Psalm 110** teaches that,

Victory: The supremacy of the **victorious** Christ! (41-46)

- False Choice: Either son of **David** or **Lord**!
- **Jesus**: The Christ is both fully **human** and fully **God**.

The graphic also features a small 'Jesus' logo in the bottom left corner.

The Messiah is both fully human and fully God.

This becomes clear once we understand that the Hebrew text of **Psalm 110** uses two different words for Lord.

PSALM 110
A Psalm of David

1 The LORD says to **my** Lord: **3 Persons**
(Yahweh) (David's) (Adonai) **Yahweh**
[You] Sit at **my** right hand, **Adonai**
(Adonai) (Yahweh's) **Adonai**
until I make your enemies your footstool."
(Yahweh) (Adonai's) (Adonai's) **David**

The graphic includes a 'Jesus' logo in the top left and 'Psalm 110:1' in the top right.

So the verse actually refers to three different persons:

Since David is writing, the *my* pronoun refers to David.

Yahweh, which is translated as LORD in all caps, is the name of God emphasizing His eternal, covenant-keeping nature.

Adonai, which is translated as Lord in title caps, is the name of God meaning Master or Sovereign. The Jews rightly believed that Adonai here referred to the Messiah, for only the Anointed Christ would be invited to sit at Yahweh's right hand.

So notice how this verse teaches that the Messiah was also David's Lord. For

Yahweh says to David's Adonai, You Adonai sit at Yahweh's right hand until Yahweh makes all of Adonai's enemies Adonai's footstool.

So biblically speaking, the Messiah is more than just David's Son. The Messiah is also David's Lord – David's

²⁴ Psalm 89:36-37; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, c.f. Psalm 110:1

Adonai! No king would ever refer to his own son as Adonai or Master. Therefore the Messiah or the Christ was both “*the root and the offspring of David!*”²⁵

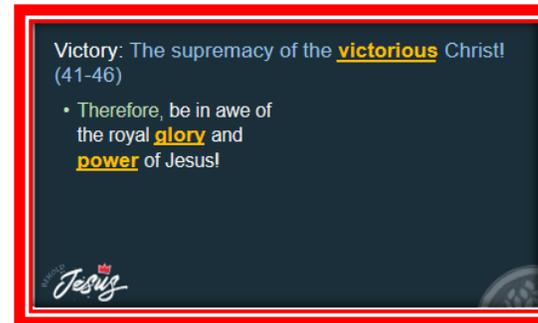
The Messiah is both David’s Lord and David’s Son! **Psalm 110** teaches that the Christ is both fully human, and fully God!

And listen to the deafening silence from these religious rulers as this light from **Psalm 110** dawned on them,

And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions.

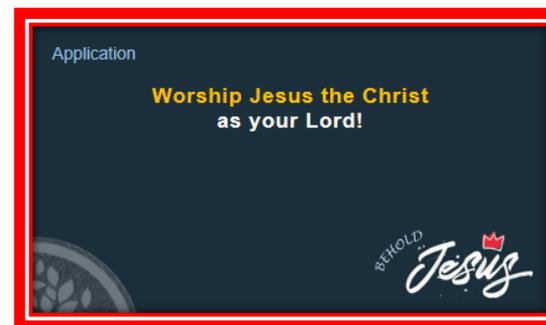
The debates are over, and Jesus alone stands victorious before His accusers! Jesus has conclusively demonstrated from Scripture that He is God, and that He deserves and demands utmost devotion and love as the most important duty of our life.

Jesus is more than an earthly king. He’s the very Son of God – rejected by the ones He came to save, but still the conquering King who alone has the prerogative to sit at the right hand of God until every heart will bow in submission to Him.²⁶



Therefore, be in awe of the royal glory and power of Jesus!

Even now, Jesus is sitting at the right hand of our Heavenly Father interceding for us.²⁷ Though we are still engaged in daily battles for our heart’s love... be in awe of the royal victor whose name is Jesus! No challenger will ever be successful against our Lord and Christ! Jesus has already won the victory! He’s already seated in the heavenly throne, and Jesus patiently advocates for our every need while He secures perfect righteousness for all who believe on Him!²⁸



Therefore today you must worship Jesus the Christ as your Lord!

²⁵ Revelation 22:16

²⁶ Romans 14:11; c.f. Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10-11

²⁷ Mark 16:14; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3, 9:24

²⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:21

Only Jesus is worthy of your utmost devotion and love! See His glory, and behold His majesty victory over all who oppose Him. Love Jesus with your highest devotion!

But listen carefully now, because you will never increase your love for God or others by trying to manufacture greater love. You will never be able to talk yourself into greater love for God, or greater love for any other person.

There's only one way to fuel love for God, which is the only true source of love for others, and that is to gaze upon the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. You will never love deeply what you only know superficially. So as you open the Scriptures daily to feed your soul, pray that God would open your eyes to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.²⁹ Pray that God would help you to know the incomprehensible love of God for you,³⁰ which is the fountainhead of all love for others.³¹ Pray that God would help us all to see Jesus for who He truly is – Fully God, and Fully Human – our perfect Savior and Lord, who is the most supreme, most beautiful, most glorious object of worship and devotion possible for the human soul!



²⁹ 2 Corinthians 4:4b

³⁰ Ephesians 3:17-19

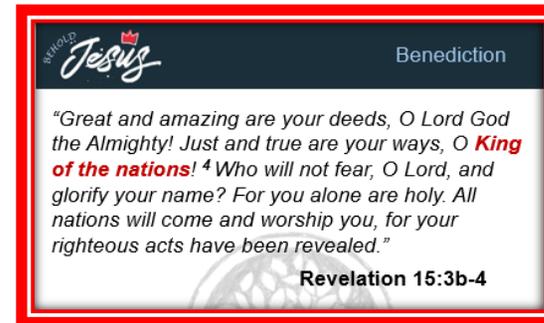
For when we see Jesus for who He truly is, we will love Him. And when we truly love Him, all righteousness will consequently be fulfilled through us.

Let's pray.

<<Is He Worthy?>>

NCBC's Annual Meeting today at 9:30a! All encouraged to attend!!

Let's pray our benediction together:



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4

³¹ 1 John 4:19

Recommended Resources on Matthew 22:34-46:

- Leviticus 19:18
- Deuteronomy 6:5; 25:5-10; 30:6
- Psalm 110:1
- Ezekiel 36:26-27
- Daniel 12:2
- Matthew 7:12; 10:37
- Mark 12:13-37
- Luke 20:19-44
- John 14:15-24
- Acts 23:6-8
- Romans 1:3-4; 13:8-10; 14:23
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Galatians 5:6, 14, 22
- Colossians 1:17-18; 2:8-10
- James 2:10; 3:18-26
- 1 Peter 1:8-8
- 1 John 3:10, 14ff; 4:7-5:5

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/love-your-neighbor-as-yourself-part-1>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/love-your-neighbor-as-yourself-part-2>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/how-to-grow-in-love-for-god>

- “The Challengers are Silenced – Part 1” sermon from Matthew 22:15-46, preached at NCBC on 5/2/21.
- “The Challengers are Silenced – Part 2” sermon from Matthew 22:15-46, preached at NCBC on 5/9/21.

- *Who is Jesus?* Greg Gilbert
- *Putting Jesus in His Place*, Bowman & Komoszewski
- *Desiring God*, John Piper

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Review Matthew 22:15-40. What were the underlying motives of those who questioned Jesus here?
2. Read Psalm 110:1 and Matthew 22:41-46. Why was Jesus’ question perplexing to these Jewish leaders?
3. Read Matthew 22:43. How would you respond to someone who said they rejected the authority of God’s Word but they loved Jesus? (c.f. John 8:42-47)
4. Review Matthew 22:34-40. What is the beginning and end of all God’s revelation? Compare and contrast 22:40 with Matthew 7:12 and Romans 13:8, 10. Which verse/s reveal the source of God’s law, and which verses reveal the purpose of God’s law? How is our love for others related to our love for God?
5. Read Deuteronomy 30:6, 1 John 4:19, and 1 Peter 1:8-9. How do you grow in loving God? How is loving God both a duty and a gift? Since our heart cannot love what our mind does not know, how are you practically pursuing a greater knowledge of God’s glory as revealed to us through the person and work of Jesus Christ? (c.f. 2 Cor 4:6)