

Matthew 22:41-46 | “A Knockout Blow”
Preached on April 14, 2024 by Pastor Matt Brown

You can turn in your Bibles to Matthew 22, as we will be finishing out the chapter today.

We will be in Matthew 22:41-46. [pauseeee]

We love to see competitions, don't we?

We love to watch the big game, and see the back and forth.

We like to observe the contention and struggle as two people or groups go head-to-head.

[pauseeee]

The 2024 olympics are coming up this summer, and many people watch them for the thrill of the games. [pause]

There's something in us that enjoys seeing what will happen and what the outcome will be.

We watch those final moments with anticipation to see who will come out on top and claim the prize. [pause]

We love to see that final game-winning shot, or the winning team rejoice in joy when they have secured the victory.

There's something about seeing that winning goal, walk off homerun, or knockout blow.

[pauseeee]

Well as we have worked through Matthew 22, it's like we have been watching a competition play out.

But here's the thing: this match is a complete blowout. [pause]

The religious leaders have gone up against Jesus, and have lost time and time again.

They have tried to test and trip Him up, but everytime they had to walk away, not knowing what to say.

Each time, they came up to Jesus confident, but left muzzled. *[pause]*

It was a complete rout of the competition by Jesus, and it was so easy for Jesus that it may even be a stretch to call it a contest or competition. [pauseeee]

They asked about taxes, and His response led to marveling.

They asked about the resurrection of the body, and everyone was astonished by His answer.

And they asked about the greatest commandment, and what else could they say?

3 questions posed and 3 amazing answers given, which thwarted their evil plan. *[pauseeee]*

In those 3 questions, we could say that Jesus won 3 defensive victories, but now in our passage today, Jesus will go on the offensive, so to say.

Jesus will ask *them* some questions, and so it's sort of like a counter-test.

And through these questions, Christ performs a knockout blow, for by the end, no one will be bold enough to ask him any more questions. *[pause]*

Look down at our passage as I READ IT. *[READ]*

Jesus takes this opportunity to turn the tables on the Pharisees and ask them some questions, as they are gathered. *[pause]*

Now consider the *topic* of Jesus' questions. *[pause]*

They have been asking about hot, controversial topics, but Jesus wants to talk about one of the most important topics: the identity of the Messiah. *[pause]*

This is like today.

Many people want to talk and debate about controversial topics, all the while, they neglect the most important things. *[pause]*

People love to converse about the gray areas.

They love to talk about controversial topics and the hot takes of the day. *[pauseeee]*

Now there is a place for some of those things, but many times people are consumed with talking about those things and yet miss the most important things. *[pause]*

People's eyes get big when a controversial topic is brought up, but get sleepy when Christ is talked about.

Christian social media accounts are set ablaze with the hot takes of the day, but talk of the person and work of Christ is minimal at best. *[pauseeee]*

Many Christians know more about what they think are signs and indicators of some apocalyptic event than they know of the person and work of Christ. *[pause]*

If you know more about blood moons than you do of the blood of Christ, then something is amiss. *[pauseeee]*

In contrast to their controversial questions, Jesus drills down to the most important question for each and every single person: "what do you think about the Christ?" *[pause]*

You get that question wrong, and you have missed the most eternally important question there is.

Every person's eternity hangs on that question.

It matters how you answer! *[pauseeee]*

Like Christ did, so God often points us to the right questions that we *should* be asking. *[pause]*

We ask, "What does this event over in Israel mean for the end times?!" and God is pushing us to ask ourselves instead, "Will you be faithful to the end?" *[pause]*

We ask, "Why did this bad thing happen to me?" And God pushes us to ask instead, "Am I trusting Him through this trial?" *[pauseeee]*

Jesus knew that taxes, the resurrection body, and God's commandments were important.

But He also knew that the most important thing that the Pharisees needed was to believe who He was. *[pause]*

If they got the Messiah question wrong, it didn't matter how many other questions they got right, they were lost.

So also, you can know a lot about the Bible and get many Bible trivia answers right, but if you get Christ wrong, it is all for nothing. *[pauseeeee]*

So Jesus asks them what they think about the Christ, and He's really getting down to the identity of the Messiah.

And so He asks, "Whose son is he?" *[pauseeee]*

The answer was a simple, straightforward one that every Jew would know: the Messiah would be David's descendent. *[pause]*

This is because God had promised David a descendant whose kingdom would be an eternal one.¹

And it's this promised One from David's offspring that the later prophets pick up on as their hope.² *[pauseeee]*

So Jesus is leading the Pharisees somewhere. *[pause]*

He has got them to confess that the Messiah would be David's son.

But now that that is agreed upon, He takes them to an interesting verse in Psalm 110. *[pause]*

He says, starting in verse 43...

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

¹ See 2 Samuel 7.

² A few examples of many are: Jeremiah 30:9, Ezekiel 37:24, Micah 5:2.

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" *[pauseeee]*

In that day, sons were always seen as inferior to their fathers.

Fathers wouldn't talk as if they were inferior to their sons, but it would be the other way around.

Yet here is David calling his descendant, "Lord". *[pause]*

The root question is this: how could the Messiah be David's Son and Lord? *[pause]*

Do you see what He's doing?

He's really showing them that the Messiah wouldn't *merely* be a physical descendent, but would be that and more.

He would be God Himself! *[pause]*

The Messiah wouldn't be just another David, but a better, higher David, who David would be inferior to.

And not just a little inferior, for the great king David even called Him, 'Lord'. *[pauseeee]*

This passage is pushing us to see that...

I. Christ is Lord!

He is the promised Davidic descendant, and He is the Lord, for Scripture showed that this was the case. *[pause]*

It's like Jesus is pulling back the curtain to reveal His identity.

He's the Son of David and the Son of God.

And this means that He has great authority, for in Psalm 110, the Messiah is told to sit at the right hand of Yahweh.

He would be in a position of authority and approval, right next to God the Father! *[pauseeee]*

This is where Jesus is seated now!

He has ascended to the right hand of the Father.

He's truly the Son of God, who died, rose again, and then ascended to sit at the right hand of God. *[pauseeee]*

No wonder He shows such authority in how He uses the Word of God in this passage.

It's because He is the Lord - David's Lord and our Lord. *[pauseeee]*

This is who we worship and submit to.

We don't follow and serve a mere human, but the very Son of God who took on flesh. *[pauseee]*

Just think of the uniqueness of this.

Jesus is the Son of God -- He is divine. *[pause]*

David could call Him, "Lord".

And the very Son of God took on flesh, and was born in the world in the line of David, so that He could be our Savior, who took our place.

He would become one of us and become King, whose enemies would become His footstool. *[pauseee]*

This is what we believe, and this is a *foundational* belief: Jesus is both God and man. *[pause]*

He is both a descendant of David and the Lord of David.

So who else is worthy of worship and praise and submission? *[pauseee]*

Our hope is not in man, our hope is in God, who became one of us to save us. *[pauseee]*

Christ is Lord - there's no way around that.

But is He Lord of your life?

Do you bow down to Him in every area of your life? *[pause]*

Even the great David, who had the highest position of the time and who was a man after God's own heart, submitted and called Him, 'Lord'. *[pauseee]*

Do you submit to the Lord Jesus?

Do you lay everything at His feet, and say, "Lord, what will you have me to do?"

Do you worship Him with your all? *[pause]*

Is your time given over to Him as Lord, or do you see yourself as the lord of your time? *[pause]*

Is He Lord of your money, or do you think that it's all yours to use as you see fit? *[pause]*

Is He over what you do everyday and how you do it, or are you the master of your choices and actions? *[pauseee]*

We love to be independent, we love to make our own choices, and be in control of what we deem as "ours".

But that kind of independence has no place in the Christian's life, for we are servants, subjects, and stewards of the Lord. *[pause]*

He calls the shots, not us.

He leads, we follow.

He commands, we obey.

And since He is the Lord, who sits at the right hand of the Father, and whose enemies will become His footstool...

...Who are we to think that we are above Him in any way, shape, or form? *[pauseeee]*

He is the Lord, and we are not.

We are purchased and bought with a price, we are not our own.³

So what areas of your life are you thinking that are yours to control and be in charge of?

What sections of your life do you often try to keep God out of, and do you try to say, "Mine!"? *[pause]*

What parts do you need to lay at His feet that aren't there already? *[pauseeeee]*

Isn't it amazing that here were the Pharisees being asked about the Christ by the very Christ Himself, yet they refused to acknowledge Him? *[pauseeeee]*

There's a story of Alfred the Great...

It's said that "At one point during his wars with the Danes, Alfred was forced to seek refuge in the hut of a poor Saxon family. *[pause]*

Not recognizing her visitor, the woman of the house said she had to leave and asked Alfred to watch some cakes she was baking.

But the king had other things on his mind and did not notice that the cakes were burning. *[pause]*

Upon her return, the lady unknowingly gave her sovereign a hearty scolding!"⁴ *[pauseeee]*

So also, here were the Pharisees trying to trip Jesus up, and they were unknowingly trying to trip up the Lord.

The One asking them questions about the Christ was Christ Himself, and they were blind to it. *[pauseeee]*

³ A reference to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

⁴ *Today in the Word*, April 9, 1992 Leadership, IV, 3, p. 94. Found at: <https://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/i/identity.htm>.

Do you recognize the Christ of the Scriptures that are in front of you, or are you blind to His true identity?

We must each confess that Jesus is Lord. *[pauseeee]*

So we see Jesus' identity here as the Messiah, but we also see that...

II. Christ always has the final word.

After Jesus asks them these questions, look at what happens in verse 46, “And no one was able to answer him a word.” *[pause]*

They couldn't say one thing in response!

Their mouths were shut, for no one was capable to withstand His truth and wisdom, and they didn't *want* to believe in Jesus. *[pause]*

They couldn't explain how the Messiah could be David's Son and Lord.

This is because in many cases, they were only thinking of the Messiah as a political deliverer, but the Messiah is so much more.

He is both God and man.

He comes to save from sin and death. *[pauseeee]*

Verse 46 also says, “nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.” [pause]

Isn't that remarkable?!

He had proven time and time again that you could not stump Him or trip Him up.

His wisdom and words were just too good, for He is the Word made flesh.⁵ *[pauseeee]*

They had learned their lesson, and it was that they were no match for Jesus. [pause]

It's kind of like if you got completely blown out by someone who was ultra skilled at basketball, and who didn't even let you score 1 point, I doubt you'd try it again.

So also, the Pharisees knew that they could not make Jesus mess up. [pause]

No one “dared” to ask Him anything else.

No one had the courage or boldness to ask another “testing” question, for they recognized His supremacy in speaking the truth. [pauseeee]

⁵ A reference to John 1:14.

We all want to “win” an argument, and to have that perfect response that just silences everyone.
[pause]

You see this all the time on social media comments where people try to impress others with their responses and show everyone that they “won” an argument.

Well Jesus would win time and time again so much that people didn’t even try beating Him anymore.

That is His wisdom, truth, and power revealed. *[pauseeee]*

Jesus always has the final word when it comes to the truth.

As Hebrews says, “In these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son.”⁶ *[pause]*

In Him is truth, for He is the truth.⁷

There’s not some future “truth” that trumps what He has declared.

There’s not some later “truth” that supersedes what He has said.

No -- what Jesus says goes, and that means that you can trust what He says, always. *[pause]*

Whatever He says, that’s the final word on it. *[pause]*

What He has said about eternal life, you can count on it.

What He has said about forgiveness, take it to the bank.

What He has said about Himself, you can trust it. *[pauseeee]*

Remember back when COVID first came out? *[pause]*

You are probably thinking, ‘Who can forget?’ *[pause]*

Well remember how mandates and orders were constantly changing?

You would hear and understand what you were supposed to do, and then a week later it would be changed to something else. *[pause]*

Aren’t you thankful that Christ’s word isn’t like that?

What He says, you can rely upon.

He doesn’t make a mistake, nor slip up.

He doesn’t accidentally say something wrong, but His words are final. *[pause]*

⁶ Hebrews 1:2.

⁷ A reference to John 14:6.

What an encouraging thing to remember as you read the Word of God!

As you read what Jesus says, you can think, “Yes, this is the truth, and this truth will never change.” *[pause]*

What Jesus says aren’t things that can be disregarded due to, “Oh, you know that’s just how the culture was back then, but we can ignore it since we are more progressed now.”

No, Jesus’ word is final, so will you submit to His Word? *[pauseeee]*

Something else we see is that evil men cannot trip Jesus up. *[pause]*

The religious leaders tried their hardest, but they failed.

They kept rallying and trying again, yet Jesus stumped them with one line of questioning. *[pause]*

Their stubbornness and willful ignorance was on display - all the while, His masterful wisdom and power was on display. *[pauseeee]*

Here were these groups of religious leaders, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, trying to test one man, Jesus, but they couldn’t. *[pause]*

And then one man, Jesus, asks a group of them some questions about a passage in the Old Testament and they couldn’t answer Him a word. *[pause]*

So even though Jesus was greatly outnumbered, He was easily victorious every time. *[pause]*

Doesn’t that just remind you of how God works?

He wins the most unlikely of battles. *[pause]*

Though the armies of Israel were greatly outnumbered many times in the Old Testament, He would win a decisive victory.

He can do anything!

And this just goes to show that it doesn’t matter how many evil people go up against the Lord, Christ can defeat them all. *[pause]*

It doesn’t matter how great the wickedness seems as we look around us.

It doesn’t matter how outnumbered we think we are - if Christ is one our side, we are on the side of victory. *[pauseeee]*

What a great reminder that Christ will have the final word.

His enemies *will* end up under His footstool, just like Pharisees ended up under His footstool here. *[pause]*

Evil will not triumph! Death will not win!

He conquered sin, death, and Satan on the cross and in the grave, and someday He will return to make all things right. *[pauseeee]*

In this one book called, *Creatures of Habit*, the author gives this illustration. He says...

“When I was in grade school...we walked down a street where a man had a large dog...[with] a very intimidating bark and [it] was tethered to a long chain in the backyard. *[pause]*

When we would walk past this house that dog would start barking and come running after us... *[pause]*

Of course, the chain would eventually stop him, but we were always worried that one day he would break loose and attack us. *[pauseeee]*

One day the owner of the dog was in the yard and watched this entire scene unfold...[and] when he saw us, he began to motion for us to come over to him...*[pause]*

The entire time the man kept saying to us, "You don't need to be afraid of my dog." Then he knelt down and pulled back the dog's upper lip to reveal he had no teeth!...*[pause]*

The man said, "Even if this dog were to ever get loose and try to bite you, it wouldn't hurt." All of us started to laugh. And we were never afraid of that dog again.

When that man told us the truth, all of the fears and worries we had about that dog were instantly gone.”⁸ *[pause]*

So also, Satan, sin, and death's teeth are gone!

They try to bite us, but it doesn't do anything to our standing before God, for Christ has removed their teeth and someday will remove them completely, once and for all. *[pause]*

He always has the final word, and that means that if you trust Him, He will also have the final word in your life. *[pause]*

That sin struggle you face will someday give way to complete freedom and victory!

That pain you face today will be relieved completely forever.

Sorrow, sadness, and discouragement will be replaced with happiness, joy, and endless bliss. *[pauseeee]*

⁸ Author Steve Poe. Found at:
<https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2022/february/dont-worry-he-cant-bite-you.html>.

Jesus the Lord always has the final word, so He can be trusted and followed with our whole lives, from beginning to end! *[pause]*

Do you trust Him?

Is He your hope when you are struggling once again with the same sin over and over again?
[pause]

Is He your security when you look around you and see evil growing and seemingly getting away with it?

Is He your trust when you go through the hard trials of life? *[pauseeee]*

Christ is truly Lord, and He has the final word, so....

We should all recognize and submit to Christ the Lord.

Through some questions about the identity of the Messiah, Jesus was seeking to lead the Pharisees to see that *He* is the Christ. *[pause]*

So actually, though Christ's questions seem like a nasty knockout blow to the Pharisees, they were really given in grace.

These were the questions they *needed* to answer right!

The answers to these questions would have led to the salvation of their souls, if they believed them in faith! *[pauseeee]*

The Pharisees left in defeated silence, but it's really *tragic silence*. *[pause]*

They left without turning in trust to the Messiah in front of them. *[pause]*

This was really a knockout that didn't need to happen.

For instead of leaving in silence, they should have said, "We believe!" or at the very least, "Tell us more, Lord!" *[pauseeee]*

This morning, Christ is asking you, "What do you think of the Christ? Do you trust Him?"
[pause]

Through the grace of His Word, He is asking you these things, but how will you answer? *[pause]*

Will you merely walk away in silence, unaffected by what He has shown you?

Or will you bow the knee and call Him, 'Lord', in every part of your life? *[pauseeee]*

What do you think of the Christ?

Will He be your greatest treasure?