

Read Mark 12:35-40

35 Later, as Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple, he asked, “Why do the teachers of religious law claim that the Messiah is the son of David?”

36 For David himself, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’

37 Since David himself called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with great delight.

38 Jesus also taught: “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces.

39 And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets.

40 Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished.”

When Jesus was teaching the people in the temple, what question did He ask them (v. 35)? Why do the religious leaders say that Jesus is the son of David?

What’s the answer to that question? Why did they make that claim? Because the Old Testament clearly says in several places that Jesus would be a descendant of David (2 Samuel 7:8-16 e.g.) and the religious leaders knew that. Plus, the New Testament confirms that truth in several places (Matthew 1:1 e.g.).

Jesus then quoted David. What did David say (vv. 36-37)? Jesus is my Lord.

How can Jesus be David’s son and David’s Lord at the same time? Jesus is both 100% Man and 100% God. As David’s Son (descendant), Jesus would be human. As David’s Lord, Jesus would be divine (God). Revelation 22:16 says, “*He is both the root and offspring of David.*”

How did the crowds react to Jesus’ teaching (v. 37)? They loved it!

What warning did Jesus give the people (vv. 38-40)? Watch out for the religious leaders who are the teachers of the Jewish Law. They like to show off and try to look important. They look and act like they are very religious but they’re not really Christians.

Do you know anyone who is religious but not a true believer?

Why did Jesus warn the people? He wanted to expose the Jewish teachers for who they really were so the people would not be deceived into thinking they were important. They were hypocrites -- they pretended to love *God* greatly, but they were just trying to get the people to love *them* greatly. Plus, they cheated widows out of their money.