

He asks two more questions: “**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? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” (Mt 22:43-45).**

Before we get to Jesus’ questions, what do you make of the three little words, “in the Spirit” here? “How is it then that David, *in the Spirit*, calls him Lord?” Jesus is confessing very clearly that the words of King David in the Psalms are inspired by God. As Paul writes in **2 Timothy 3:16**, “**All Scripture is breathed out by God.**” Peter writes in **2 Peter 1:21**, “**For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**” Those are usually the two verses biblical Christians go to as proof texts for the inspiration of the Scriptures, but Jesus’ small confession here perhaps carries just as much if not even more weight. Even the God-Man, the Christ, confesses that David spoke by the Holy Spirit! True God confesses that true God inspired the Scriptures! This, too, is Christology!

Now to the two questions Jesus asks the Pharisees. Jesus is quoting Psalm 110:1. If you were to look up Psalm 110:1 in any English Bible, you would read, “The LORD” – capitals L-O-R-D – “says to my Lord” – with only the L capitalized. What this means is, the personal name of God – YAHWEH – says to my Lord, that is, Christ. To put it into clear theological terms: God the Father says to the Christ, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” This is Christology. David’s God says to David’s Lord, that this Lord has both divine and human characteristics. He’s divine in that He sits at the right hand of God, which is a position of power not a physical place, and yet he’s human because he has earthly enemies (TLSB note Ps 110:1).

So how can *this* Lord be David’s son? If the Christ is only God then He can’t be David’s son. If He is only man then He can’t be David’s Lord! Jesus is teaching Christology. The person of Christ is a mystery to reason. The two natures of Christ, that He is both true God and true Man, cannot be grasped by reason or strength, but only by faith. This is ultimately why the Pharisees were not able to answer Jesus a word. This is why from that day forward no one dared to ask Him any more questions. The Pharisees did not understand that faith cannot be achieved by works. True faith cannot be apprehended by intense academic study or strict adherence to a moral code. True faith is only given by God’s grace, and faith trusts God’s Word. The Pharisees may have sought to silence Jesus, but they were the ones who left in silence...

So what does this mean for you? We prayed in the Introit, “Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, and let your prophets be proven faithful.” God’s Word will prove true every single time. Why doubt? God is faithful! He gives His people peace. When we confess our sins in humility, God answers the prayer we sing after almost every sermon in the liturgy from **Psalm 51:10**. He “**creates a clean heart and renews a right spirit within me.**” He does not cast us away from His presence. He does not take His Holy Spirit from us. He restores unto us the joy of His salvation! The greatness of God’s goodness and mercy does sometimes leave us speechless, but it will in the end cause us to praise God when He “**opens our lips, that our mouths may declare His praise**” (**Ps 51:15**). And this is all for Jesus’ sake, who is true God and true man, who not only paid the penalty of our sins, but also has given us His perfect righteousness. Only the Christ could do this. Without Christology, we couldn’t know our Jesus. Without Christology we wouldn’t have the promise that we will see our Jesus face to face on the Last Day when we believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins.

Today I must declare God’s praise. After praying with my wife early Friday morning about whether or not to go to my Grandpa’s funeral, we finally decided that I would leave at the literal last minute. I got to the Church in North Tonawanda, New York at 12:27, three minutes before it began. I didn’t get to see my Grandpa’s remains in the casket as the funeral director had long since already closed it. After the funeral, since that funeral director also happens to be my Godfather, he asked my Dad to ask me if I wanted him to open the casket one last time so I could see my Grandpa. I told him, “No, it’s OK. I’ll be there when *the Lord* opens it up on the Last Day.”

That’s why we celebrate Christology. Because Christ – true God and true man – has been raised, so, too, all who believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins will be raised in the body, glorified and imperishable. We will get to see not only Jesus, but all those who trusted in Him for the forgiveness of sins. The vaults of all graves will be opened; the vaults of heaven will resound with praise. Jesus the Christ “**will sustain you to the end**”, and by faith you will be declared “**guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**” (**1 Cor 1:8**). In Jesus’ name, Amen.