

• *Jesus asks the Jewish leaders a question*

### 1. Jesus - the faithful witness

• *He asks them about the Christ, the Messiah and what He will be like*

• *The Son of God and the Son of David – 'My Lord' in Psalm 110*

### 2. These people are not at peace with God

• *Religious professionals but lack deep understanding*

• *They lacked peace because they didn't see who Jesus really is*

• *Jesus warns us against such people who use religion for their own ends*

The Jewish leaders have been trying to get Jesus into trouble. Now Jesus asks them a question.

1. **Consider Jesus.** Jesus is perfectly faithful. The New Testament describes Him as '*the faithful witness*'<sup>[1]</sup>. He knows how the Jewish leaders feel about Him. When He was walking towards Jerusalem He told the disciples several times that He would be ill-treated, betrayed and eventually executed. Yet He went to Jerusalem disregarding what might happen to Him. He was a faithful witness. He has been faithful in answering all of their questions.

Jesus will be faithful to you. The main thing He wants to talk to you about is Himself. We notice that the Jewish leaders want to talk about interesting theological questions, especially questions about the law of Moses. This is typical of a certain kind of person who wants to talk about morality or theological questions. But we notice the difference between their questions to Jesus and His questions to them. He wants to ask them questions about Himself. He asks them: what do you think about the Christ, the Messiah, the One who was foretold as the coming King of Israel? And He wants to know whether they are able to see in the Scriptures what the Messiah will be like<sup>[1]</sup>. Of course, the Saviour is standing right there in front of them, talking to them. But somehow they do not see it.

Jesus wants to talk about Himself as the Son of God. He refers to Psalm 110. In Psalm 110, God's Saviour, the 'Messiah' or 'Christ' is said to be the 'Son of David'. Yet David speaks of his future son as 'My Lord'. How can this be? How can a descendant of David be addressed as 'my Lord' even by David himself?

2. **Consider these people who are not at peace with God.** It is not difficult for a Christian to answer Jesus' question, but it was difficult for the scribes and teachers of the law in the temple at Jerusalem. People who earn their living from religion often are the last people on earth to know God. You would think these professional priests would have a deep understanding of the Bible, and that they would be very eager to find out everything they can about salvation and about knowing God.

People who are not at peace with God are the way they are because their eyes have never been opened to the Bible. People who are not at peace with God are the way they are because they have never really seen the Son of God. Who is the Son of God? He is 'Jesus'<sup>[1]</sup>. He is 'the Christ' (someone who comes to rule over the entire people of God by the power of the Holy Spirit). He is the 'Son of David'. He is 'the Lord' even for King David! Even King David worships and admires the coming Saviour.

Jesus warns us against people that are religious professionals in some rigid denomination that claims to be speaking for God. Sadly, denominations decline. A group of people who are used by God at one time become a rigid inflexible organisation no longer following the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells us to be careful of such people. They are not likely to help us to know God. They like to be teachers. They like dressing up in special clothes. They love to be greeted as important people, with

[1] Revelation 1:5

[1] 20:41-44

[1] 20:41

important titles. They like special honour in religious places; and they like special honour on social occasions<sup>¶1</sup>. But they do not know God. They know a lot about professional religion, but they do not know God. And they like making money – even out of needy people<sup>¶2</sup>.

¶1 20:45-46

¶2 20:47

**A different kind of person – the widow**

1. Poor and needy

2. Sacrificial

• Secret generosity is a good measure of spirituality

**Two types of people**

• Those touched by the Holy Spirit recognise Jesus and are generous givers – not exploiters

**Consider one who is at peace with God.** Consider the next person in this Gospel of Luke, the widow who gave her two copper coins to the temple treasury. She is also in the temple like the religious leaders, but she is a very different kind of person.



1. She is poor and needy. God is often known far more by poor and needy people than He is by the rich and famous.

2. She is sacrificial. She had **two** coins, which means it would have been easy for her to put half of what she had into the temple treasury. If she only had one coin it is possible to see how the decision to put in everything might be almost forced on her, but with two coins this was not the case. She chose to do so.

Secret generosity is a good measure of spirituality. Pharisees like to get money<sup>¶1</sup>; those who are truly spiritual are generous and give sacrificially. The test of sacrificial giving is not how much you give but how much is left after you give.

¶1 as in 20:47

So here are two types of people at the temple, the teachers of the law and the widows. The teachers of the law are there to get profit for themselves – including financial profit from widows. The widow is the very kind of person the experts in the law like to swindle. The teacher of the law is an expert in religious duty at the temple but he has not had his heart touched by God. It is easy to be busy in religious business and yet not touched by God's Holy Spirit. If the Pharisees had been touched by the Holy Spirit they would have had insight into the Scriptures, would have recognised Jesus as the One who fulfils Psalm 110 – and would have been generous like the widow instead of seeking to exploit her.

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