

## Matthew 22:41-46 “Jesus IS the Son of God”

2.11.18

We’ve been using this picture to give us insight into where Jesus is and what He’s doing during the last week of His life before His crucifixion and resurrection...



Jesus is in the Temple Courtyard and He’s teaching the people when group after group have come to try to trip Him up. They’ve been coming like contestants on a game show to challenge the champion. It’s like a first century “Jeopardy” show... No one can beat the champion...Jesus.

The Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians...a Lawyer, they’ve all tried to publicly discredit Jesus... because they’re all intimidated by His popularity and the fact that the people are flocking to Him. Jesus is a threat to their authority, their position and the very doctrine they teach. He’s exposed them for what they are: RELIGIOUS FRAUDS who are fleecing the flock. They are wolves in sheep’s clothing, and Jesus has rebuffed and rebuked them at every turn.

He’s gagged them... in the sense that He’s silenced them like He silenced the Sea of Galilee during the storm. He silenced them like He silenced the demons. They had nothing for Him! They had met their match and now Jesus turns the tables and asks them a question...

### Matthew 22:41-46

<sup>41</sup> Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup> saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup> He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup> “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””? <sup>45</sup> If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Jesus asked, “What do you think about the Christ?”

Church family, it’s the answer to that question that determines your eternity. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CHRIST? Who is He to you? What do you think about Him... This man...



What do you really believe about Him? Do you love Him? Does He influence your life? Will He impact what you do Monday morning when you wake up? Do you check in with Him before you make decisions? Do you think about Him as you respond to someone on Facebook or Twitter?

Does He have any impact on the music you listen to? What you watch? How about the friends, those who are closest to you and has your ear...does He have any influence on those choices?

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**Jesus asked: "What do you think about the Christ?" And that is the question we will answer today as well.**

No...don't forget the setting... He's not only talking to the Pharisees in asking the question...in essence He's also asking all of those people in the courtyard...



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CHRIST?

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Church family, this is the crescendo! This is the climax of the movie! This is the final play of the game...this is it! Everything Jesus has said and done for three years has culminated in this one question. **"What do you think about the Christ?"**

This is the most important of all questions. This is the question that determines a soul's eternity! This is an eternal life or death proposition! Can you grasp the power and magnanimous importance of this question? It's the most important question of life.

You see after Jesus silenced all of these groups, He showed them **His authority** and control over the situation by asking the brain-trust of all Judaism this question... See it again...

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**Matthew 22:42**

**42** saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David."

Now let's break this down so we may seek to understand it. And to do so, we must have a clear understanding of the word: "CHRIST." That word is a word that we attach to the end of Jesus' name, right? We call Jesus, "Jesus Christ." What does Christ mean?

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**CHRIST (Gk: Christos) = the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Son of God**

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That's a Messianic title. Only the Messiah, the Son of God could attach that to his name. I couldn't attach the title to my name. "Kevin Christos." That would be blasphemy. Only Jesus can attach "Christos" to His name. Only one person can claim that title. It's the "Anointed **ONE**."

Do you see what Jesus is doing? He's asking the Pharisees and the people about the Messiah, the Anointed One, the One they've been praying for and waiting for...for centuries. Jesus asked, "**Whose Son is He?**"

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Now, the Pharisees answered immediately, "The Son of David." And we might say, "Well! They really blew that one! Because, He's the son of Joseph or you could even say, the Son of God." Well, the truth is: He's all three... He's the Son of David, the son of Joseph and the Son of God and that's why He is the Messiah. Let me explain...

The term: "Son of David" is what is called a "Messianic Term," a term used to identify the Messiah. And this was a very familiar term to the nation of Israel because of what is recorded in the Old Testament, what they studied. Like...2 Samuel 7, where God tells King David this...

### **2 Samuel 7:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

The Psalmist records in Psalm 89...

### **Psalm 89:3-4**

<sup>3</sup>You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: <sup>4</sup>'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

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You see, to the nation of Israel, the phrase, "Son of David" was equivalent to the term, "Messiah." They were one-in-the-same. Do you remember what the people were shouting just two days earlier on Sunday (remember this is Tuesday when Jesus is teaching in the Temple)?



They were waving palm branches and throwing down their cloaks as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people were shouting. Do you remember what they were shouting? **Look back at Matthew chapter 21, verse 8.**

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### **Matthew 21:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

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It seems the people were calling Jesus the Messiah! Well, PRAISE THE LORD...Everything's great right? Wrong! Listen, let me explain the problem! Through the years, the people had been listening to their religious leaders, the Pharisees and the Scribes and Teachers of the Law and what they had been taught was false. They had been taught that the Messiah was their Messiah (the nation of Israel) and no one else's. And not only that, they had been taught that the Messiah would come as a Conquering MILITARY King. You see, they no longer connected the Messiah as the One who would reconcile them back to God...they thought their religion and their lineage as Jews connected them to God, so they were good to go. Just follow their teaching and you'll gain heaven!

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They had missed it! The Messiah was standing in front of them and for most...they were too spiritually blind to recognize Him! And when Jesus didn't mount a group of soldiers to go to Rome to overthrow Rome, but INSTEAD, went to the Temple and wreaked havoc there...



on Monday... The Pharisees asked... ***"Who gives you the authority to do this!? You have no credentials from us! What gives you the right to come in here and mess up our deal!?"*** You see they could not make the connection! That this was indeed the Messiah!

Believe me...they knew the Messiah had to come from the lineage of David and I know they searched the genealogies in the synagogue in Nazareth and saw what EVEN we can see for ourselves in Matthew 1 and Luke 3...Jesus was indeed from the line and lineage of David. After all, Matthew 1 records that Jesus' earthy father, Joseph was from the line of David and Luke 3 records that Mary and her father was from the line of David. If Jesus hadn't been from the royal line of David...oh...they would have known it by now and exposed that fact to the people.

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You see, what Jesus is doing is ***making the connection for the people!*** Now, watch the brilliance of what Jesus does to make that connection...

#### **Matthew 22:43-44**

***<sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup> "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"?"***

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Now let me ask you this: ***Is there an indentation in your Bible for verse 44?*** You've learned what that means. That's a quote and in this case a direct quote from Psalm 110. ***Would you turn there please: Psalm 110.***

As you are turning... Let me tell you what Psalm 110 is to the Jewish people? It's the most noted Messianic Psalm by the Jewish people. In fact, Psalm 110 is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament. Did you know that? It's quoted by Peter, Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke and the writer of Hebrews. Have you made your way there? Let me ask you this: ***is there a little subtitle under the number 110 in your Bible?*** What does it say? "Psalm of WHO?" David, right! David wrote this Psalm and I want you to see just the first verse...because it's this verse that Jesus quoted directly...

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#### **Psalm 110:1**

***The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."***

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Listen...everybody in that crowd knew this Psalm. See the picture again...

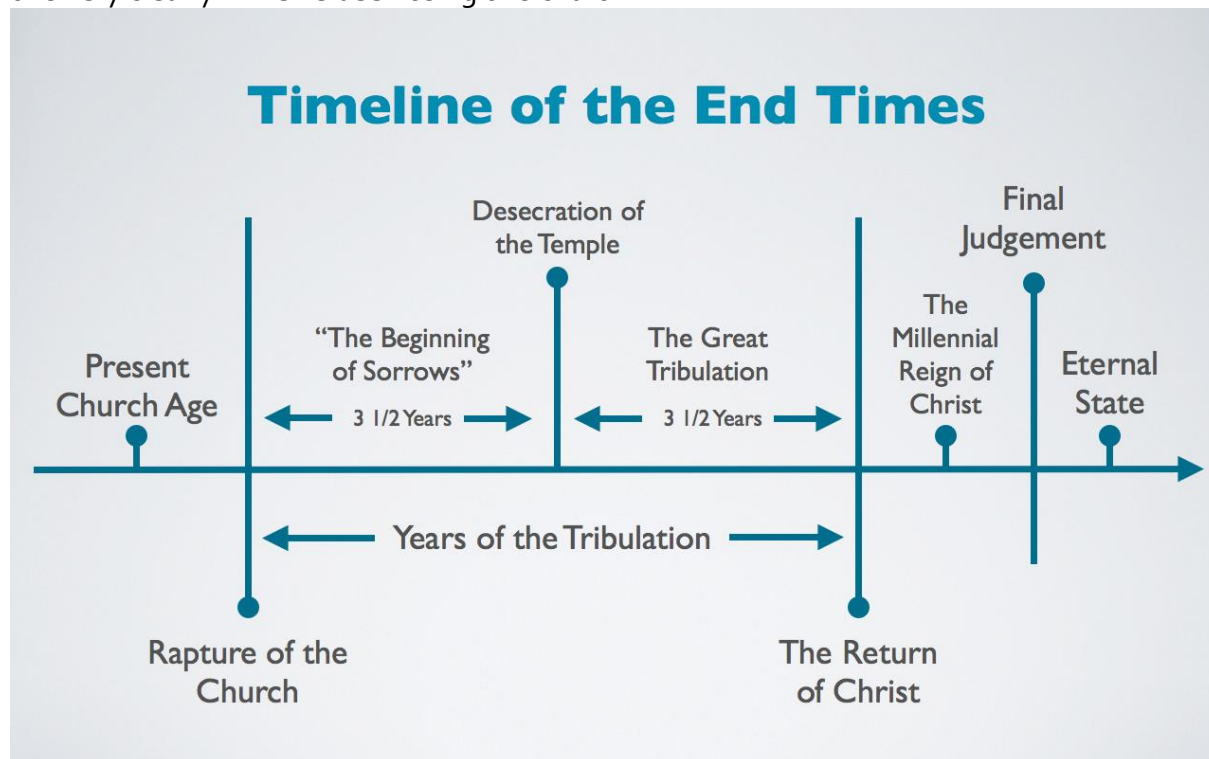


They have quoted it since they were children...longing for the Messiah to come and make their enemies His footstool...and that's why they were so disappointed when Jesus didn't gather up an army to go overthrow Rome and was instead...overthrowing tables. They wanted a King...not a religious reformer! That's why in three days the crowds would be shouting "Crucify Him!" He's not what they wanted!

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Let me ask you this: will Jesus make all of His enemies His footstool? Yes! In other words, He will put all of those who have rejected Him under His feet? In fact, He will rule and reign from the throne of David. When?

Well, if you come and join us on Wednesday nights for our study of the Book of the Revelation, you'll see this very clearly... We've been using this chart.



I want you to see the right-hand side of the Timeline... Do you see where it says, "**Millennial Reign of Christ?**" That's when Jesus will rule and reign from the throne of David in Jerusalem in the rebuilt Temple...and all of this will happen just as was prophesied in by the OT prophets centuries earlier.

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But, the Jews couldn't see us. They couldn't see the Church Age. See the left side of the chart...



They couldn't see the "**Present Church Age.**" They couldn't see us. They couldn't grasp that the Messiah...their Messiah was going to be the Gentile Messiah too. He was and is the Promised One, the Anointed One, the Son of God who saves sinners...all sinners from their sins if they'll confess and repent of those sins and call on His name and follow Him.

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**So, Jesus has all the people hanging on His every word.** And then He asks the question that's the pin the grenade...

**Matthew 22:45**

**<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?"**

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Now, He's got them in a corner. Do you understand what Jesus is asking the Pharisees? He's spread the net for them to step into and the net is the very the Word of God...His Word...that they're supposed to know.

You see, on the surface it seems confusing...but, if you look at it...it's straight-forward. Jesus asked, "If David is the one who said this" (and they knew that to be true), then how can David call his son, Lord? In other words, "How can the offspring of David, also be his Lord?" The simple answer...his offspring being described in Psalm 110 is none other than the Messiah, Himself!

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**Bang! The net has been drawn! The pin has been pulled.** He's got 'em and they knew it...

**Matthew 22:46**

**<sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.**

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Listen, it's not that the Pharisees (and even the people standing in the courtyard, for that matter) COULD NOT answer Him...it's that they WOULD NOT answer Him. Why? Because He had just connected the dots for them! **HE IS THE MESSIAH!** And they WOULD NOT admit it! So sad! They said nothing!!!

Now is this because they didn't have enough evidence? No way! Think with me... why were all the crowds there in the first place? Just a couple of weeks earlier in Bethany, just 2 miles away, Jesus had raised a man from the dead! Lazarus! They all knew this. Many of these Pharisees had traveled to Galilee, 90 miles north, when they heard that the people were no longer going to the synagogues, but were instead following a guy around from Nazareth...

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You see, if you go back to Matthew chapter 9 (don't turn there just listen), when Jesus healed the paralyzed man lowered through the roof of Peter's house in Capernaum...



Matthew records in verse 3 that the Scribes of the Pharisees were there. Then in verse 14 right before Jesus healed the woman with the issue of blood and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead...they were there too!

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And then...Now...I'll ask you **turn there now...look at Matthew 9, verse 27...** Oh, this seals the deal! Watch this... The Pharisees are still in Capernaum to see all of this...

#### **Matthew 9:27-34**

<sup>27</sup> And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."<sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."<sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it."<sup>31</sup> But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.<sup>32</sup> As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him.<sup>33</sup> And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel."<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

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They said Jesus did this by way of Satan...the prince of demons! Listen, unbelief and obstinate rejection of the truth of Jesus Christ and who He is leads to total spiritual blindness. In other words, what is as obvious as the nose on your face...disappears before the unbeliever's eyes, like smoke from a candle...puff...it's gone...they can't see it! Oh, they had all the evidence in the world... They just refused to believe it!

But you remember from last week...some had to be so close to believing...to seeing the truth... Remember last week, how the Lawyer was so close to coming to Jesus, but he wouldn't do it? Jesus said:

#### **Mark 12:34a**

<sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

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Why wouldn't he do it? I'm convinced it's why many today won't surrender to Jesus. Peer pressure. People are more worried about what others will think. They succumb to the crowd like the lawyer! Yes, I'm convinced the biggest problem for people in accepting Jesus is not a lack of evidence, no...it's just that they simply care more about what people will think of them, than care about doing what they know to be right... I've got an example of that.

Did you see how Senator Joe Manchin, Democratic Senator of W. Virginia handled peer pressure during the President's State of the Union Address? Apparently President Trump said something he agreed with...and he started to clap and then stand up...but, oh wait...he wasn't paying attention...his

buddies...particularly his leader, Chuck Schumer wasn't standing or applauding... And he gets stuck in a very awkward moment... Watch...



Talk about succumbing to peer pressure in a crowd! Manchin literally couldn't STAND it, could he?

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Jesus asked: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CHRIST? Remember when I asked you that at the beginning of the message... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CHRIST? We showed you this picture? Who is He to you?



I want to close and see if I can illustrate this message... See this robe and this chair. You've probably been wondering the entire message... "What's He going to do with that?" Well, now I'm going to show you. This chair represents your life and mine. And I'm going to let this purple robe, represent Jesus. When you accept Jesus Christ, by faith, as your Lord and Savior, He comes into your being...your spirit, by way of the Holy Spirit and that literally means that you are covered by Jesus. Or at least that's how it's supposed to look.

In other words, when people look at us, they see Jesus. They see the robe... It's the first thing they see about our lives. No mistake! No guessing! No question! There's no doubt by how you act and how you live that you're a believer...after all you are covered by Jesus...

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Unless you decide to take the common approach of our day... the "don't stand unless everyone else is approach..." I call it the **STICKER APPROACH.**

See this sticker... It's got Jesus written on it and this is what I believe the majority of people want to do with Jesus. They just want to stick Him on their lives for when they get in trouble and somebody has cancer...and they...well...they don't want to go to Hell. So, they stick Him on their lives. But, NOT WHERE REALLY ANYONE CAN SEE HIM!

**NO! Don't stand up...** Don't step out of the crowd! No! We'll compartmentalize Jesus. He just gets a sticker, not a robe! Don't use the robe! Just use the sticker...

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Which one are you using today? The sticker or the robe? What do you really believe about the Christ? What do you really believe about Jesus? This man... the God/man.



Do you love Him? Does He influence your life? How much? In what ways? Will He impact what you do tomorrow morning when you wake up? Will you check in with Him before you make decisions? Will you think about Him when respond to someone on Facebook or Twitter? Will He have any impact on the music you listen to? The things you'll watch? Does he get a say about who your closest friends are going to be...those who have your ear? Will He have any influence on your life on Monday? Will you be using a sticker or the robe?

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Oh the Pharisees wouldn't surrender to Jesus! Will you? What more evidence do you need? Nothing. He proved He was the Son of God when He rose from the dead. The question is...will you use the sticker or the robe?

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