

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 22:41-46 | A Question For His Questioners
Sunday September 28, 2025

WELCOME:

- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.
- My sermon notes are in the foyer—please take them home with you.

REVIEW:

We have been studying the last week of Jesus' life for the past two and a half months.

It began in chapter 21—Palm Sunday / Monday / King.

Tuesday—Jesus cleansed the Temple / High Priest.

Wednesday—Jesus cursed a fig tree / Prophet / Pronounced judgement/Fruitless.

While teaching, the religious leaders interrupt him and ask a question.

Matthew 21:23—By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus has answered that question with three parables—and they didn't like His answers.

The religious leaders go on to test Jesus with three more questions—and they didn't like His answers.

So after Jesus teaches the three parables and answers the three questions, they had nothing else to say.

Mark 12:34—And no one dared to question him any longer.

Luke 20:40— And they no longer dared to ask him anything.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, Jesus turns the tables on these religious leaders.

Jesus has silenced these men—muzzled them with His divine answers.

Jesus is done answering questions—He now has three questions of His own.

Jesus has questions for his questioners today.

These are deeply profound and theologically rich questions.

But they're also personal questions—it's questions everyone must answer.

Today's passage refers to a specific question that we all will answer on judgment day.

Believer, unbeliever.

It doesn't matter your nationality, your skin color, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation.

This is the question of all questions.

How you answer this question determines eternal life or eternal death.

What is it? And how will you answer?

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 22:41— While the Pharisees were together, Jesus questioned them,

Matthew 22:42—"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They replied, "David's."

Matthew 22:43—He asked them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord':

Matthew 22:44—*The Lord declared to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet'?*

Matthew 22:45—"If David calls him 'Lord,' how, then, can he be his son?"

Matthew 22:46—No one was able to answer him at all, and from that day no one dared to question him anymore.

These are the holy words from the authoritative, inerrant, inspired, infallible, sufficient, and efficacious Word of Almighty God.

PRAY:

Hallelujah! I will praise the Lord with all my heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. The Lord's works are great, studied by all who delight in them.

(Psalm 111:1-2)

EXEGESIS:

Matthew 22:41— While the Pharisees were together,

While Jesus was teaching in the temple, (Mark 12:35)

This is still Wednesday.

Immediately after Jesus answered the Pharisees' questions from last week— *Which command is the most important?* (Matt. 22:36)

Jesus said, *Love God and love people.*

Agape love—a conscious and willful decision to love God **regardless** of feelings or circumstances.

*Loving God is our **greatest longing**, and loving people is our **greatest calling**.*
After Jesus gave this profound answer...

*↳ Loving God is people
is the cross.*

Matthew 22:41—Jesus questioned them.

This statement should terrify the religious leaders.

It should terrify us as well.

- Remember when mom or dad asked you hard questions?
- Were you ever called into the principal's office?
- Pulled over by a police officer?
- Had to explain yourself to your spouse and kids?

Can you imagine being questioned by Jesus—the **Lord God** of the universe?

Scripture says that Jesus is the:

- God over all (Rom. 9:5)
- Holy One of God (John 6:69)
- Image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15)
- KING OF KINGS (Rev. 19:16)
- King of ages (Rev 15:3)
- Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8)
- LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:16)

Have you ever thought what it would be like to be questioned by the God of the Universe? We don't have to guess.

Job 38:1 NLT—Then the LORD answered Job from the **whirlwind**:

Job 38:2 NLT—"Who is this that questions **my wisdom** with such **ignorant words**?"

Job 38:3 NLT—Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.

Job 38:4 NLT— "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

Job 38:5 NLT—Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line?

Job 38:6 NLT—What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone

Job 38:18 NLT— Do you realize the ^{expanse} extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!

Job 38:19 NLT—"Where does light come from, and where does darkness go?

Job 38:20 NLT—Can you take each to its home? Do you know how to get there?

Job 38:21 NLT—But of course you know all this! For you were born before it was all created, and you are so very experienced!

Job 38:22 NLT—"Have you visited the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of hail?

Job 42:1 NLT— Then Job replied to the LORD:

Job 42:2 NLT— "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.

Job 42:5 NLT—I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

Job 42:6 NLT—I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."

Job's response of repentance is the correct response. *to his*

Arrogance : Self righteousness.

If Job couldn't answer questions about the Earth—the things he can see—how in the world can he answer questions about Heaven?

Proverbs 30:2—I am more stupid than any other person, and I lack a human's ability to understand.

Understand what?

Proverbs 30:3—...I have no knowledge of the Holy One.

Proverbs 30:4—Who has gone up to heaven and come down?

Who has gathered the wind in his hands?

Who has bound up the waters in a cloak?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is his name, and what is the name of his son—if you know?

Jesus has told the Pharisees and Sadducees in both word and deed time and time again who He is—the very Son of God—but they refuse to listen.

But by His mercy and grace, He tells them one last time.

Matthew 22:42—"What do you think about the Messiah?"

Messiah—The promised *Savior* who was foretold in the Old Testament scriptures.

The terms Messiah and Savior are interchangeable—I'll be using Savior for clarification.

This is the topic they should really be discussing.

No more questions on worldly things like money or taxes.

No more silly parables about marriage in Heaven.

Jesus makes the main thing the main thing. → Whose the one that will save us from our sins?

The Disciples think Jesus is the Savior:

+ **Matthew 16:15**—~~"But you,"~~ he asked them, "who do you say that I am?"

This is the same question as today, but more direct.

Jesus continues to speak to the Pharisees indirectly.

+ **Matthew 16:16**—Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

The demons think Jesus is the Savior:

+ **Mark 1:24**—What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

You bet the demons know that Jesus is God—since Jesus is the One who threw them out of Heaven!

Even the nation proclaimed that Jesus is the Savior two days earlier:

+ **Matthew 21:9**—Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

The fact that Jesus accepted the title 'Son of David' proves that He recognized Himself as the Savior, the Son of God.

Proclaimed

Matthew 22:42—Whose son is he?"

In other words, from what Jewish line is the Savior from?

What's the family lineage? What tribe?

Jesus is referring to what's called the Davidic Covenant.

Background...

God promised King David that He would establish a dynasty of kings who would perpetually reign over Israel through David's ancestral line, ending with God Himself as the King of kings.

God tells David...

2 Samuel 7:12—When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

In other words, one of your great-grandsons will be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world, and He will reign forever as the King of kings.

Jesus asks the Pharisees.

Matthew 22:42—Whose son is he?" They replied, "David's."

Asking a question like this to the Pharisees is like asking Albert Einstein, what two plus two is.

Everyone knew the answer to Jesus' question!

Everyone knew that the Savior would come from the lineage of King David, the greatest king of Israel.

Every Jewish boy wanted to be David—to take down Goliath.

David was a man after God's own heart!.

During ^{David's} his reign, Israel was one of the greatest empires of the ancient world.

However, after David's death, his kingdom began to disintegrate.

So, by the first century, ^{→ Jesus' time} Israel has been longing and yearning for the Savior to arrive, to free them from Roman oppression and to usher in the next golden age of Israel.

That's why people were so excited about John the Baptizer.

When John pointed people to Jesus, you can bet that the religious leaders who were investigating John went back to see if Jesus' family line was from David.

The Jews kept meticulous genealogical records. Why?

No one could hold a position of authority in Israel whose genealogy was unverified.

Remember how Matthew starts his Gospel?

Matthew 1:1—An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David...

Matthew goes into painstaking detail to list Jesus' genealogy from Abraham to David, from David to the Babylonian Exile, and from the Exile to Joseph and Mary.

^{Jesus has a second question—}
Matthew 22:43—He asked them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit,

Jesus asks a follow-up question because the Pharisees only gave a partial answer.

“Inspired”...refers to the Holy Spirit—this is not David’s opinion.

The Greek is identical to that used by John in his vision on the island of Patmos.

Revelation 1:10—I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,

Revelation 4:2— Immediately I was in the Spirit,

Both David and John, when writing Scripture, are under the unique control of the Holy Spirit in a powerful way.

Matthew 22:43—He asked them, “How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’?”

The Pharisees probably thought the answer was easy until Jesus asked a follow-up question.

Paraphrase: *If the Savior is simply one of David’s great-grandkids, why is David calling him God?*

Because the Greek noun *kurios* (Lord) is the most common designation for deity.

In other words, David addressed one of his many grandchildren as "Savior" and "God."

Jesus asks, Why would David do that?

At this point, I would really like to see a selfie.

Because the Pharisees and Sadducees are stumped.

No father calls his own son “lord.”

Sons are submissive to fathers.

The only way David calls his great-grandson *Lord* is if the Savior were more than a mere man.

For David to call his great-grandson *Lord* means he would have to be divine—God in the flesh.

The Pharisees had never considered that their Savior was also God.

Their Savior is too small.

They only considered him to be a man like David—like themselves!

They thought the Savior would be someone who cares about taxes and politics—all the things of *this* world.

They didn't understand the theological nature of the Trinity.

God is a mystery—three in one and one in three—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

So the religious experts are stunned—they cannot fathom the idea that the Savior is both God AND man.

And after a moment of extended silence, Jesus continues.

→ crickets are chirping.

**Matthew 22:44—The Lord declared to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet'?**

Jesus quotes Psalm 110. Why?

Because it clearly reveals the Savior is both God and man.

King David, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes:

Psalm 110:1—This is the declaration of the Lord to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."

Psalm 110:2—The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion.
Rule over your surrounding enemies.

Psalm 110:3—Your people will volunteer on your day of battle.
In holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn,
the dew of your youth belongs to you.

Psalm 110:4—The Lord has sworn an oath and will not take it back:
"You are a priest forever according to the pattern of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110:5—The Lord is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his anger.

Psalm 110:6—He will judge the nations, heaping up corpses;
he will crush leaders over the entire world. → Psalm 2

Psalm 110:7—He will drink from the brook by the road;
therefore, he will lift up his head.

This Psalm is mentioned 27 times in the NT!

Psalm 110 is not only about a king, but a divine king.

And not only about a divine king, but a High Priest.

And not only a High Priest, but also a divine judge who will pronounce a final judgment on the world.

Jesus quotes Psalm 110 because it teaches the doctrines of the Trinity, the incarnation, sufferings, resurrection, ascension, and intercession of Jesus Christ as the Messiah/Savior.

Only people who don't want to see that can't.

The key is that they had to truly understand the rest of the OT.

Matthew 22:44—The Lord declared to my Lord,

To understand this passage, we must recognize the limitations of the English language.

In English, we can't see that David is referring to two separate but equal people.

The first instance of "LORD" is the sacred name of God, Yahweh.

But in Psalm 110, Yahweh is having a conversation with another person that David also calls "Lord."

This second person is *Adonai*—a term reflecting God's authority! ☺

Remember the original question by the Pharisees?

Matthew 21:23—By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority?

The first Lord in Hebrew is Yahweh, whereas the second is *Adonai*.

Matthew 22:44—(Yahweh) declared to (Adonai),

Yahweh is God the Father, Adonai is God the Son—The Son of David—Jesus Christ.

Matthew 22:44—(God the Father) declared to my (God the Son), 'Sit...

God the Father is inviting God the Son to sit in the seat of cosmic authority after His work of redemption is done.

God the Son sits after His perfect life is lived, suffering, humiliation, the cross, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

The verb "sit" is a picture of continuous sitting. Why is that important?

+ **Hebrews 10:10**—...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.

+ **Hebrews 10:11**—Every (other) priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins.

+ **Hebrews 10:12**—But this man (Son of David/Son of God), after offering one sacrifice for sins (Himself) forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

+ *Still Quoting Ps. 110*
Matthew 22:44—'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet'?

+ **Hebrews 10:13**—He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool.

When a conquered enemy was brought before an ancient king, he would have the enemy lie at his feet so that the king could step on his neck and break it.

+ **Joshua 10:24**—When they had brought the kings to him, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the military commanders who had accompanied him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings."

King Jesus will do the very same thing to all who oppose Him.

Jesus now asks a third and final question...

+ **Matthew 22:45**—"If David calls him 'Lord,' (God) *SAVIOUR* how, then, can he be his son?"

Jesus can see the Pharisees' heads spinning. They have no answer to his question.

So He asks the same question from a different direction.

The first question refers to the Savior as God.

The second question refers to the Savior as a man.

If the Savior is David's God, how can he be David's great-grandson at the same time?

There is only one answer to this question.

KEYPOINT:

As God, the Savior is David's Lord; as a man, the Savior is David's great-grandson.

Jesus is both God AND Man.

Jesus had to be God/perfect because only a perfect sacrifice could be made to forgive sins.

Jesus also had to be a man because it was man who sinned.

Therefore, Jesus as the Messiah/Savior had to be both Almighty God and perfectly man simultaneously.

The Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees were confused about the Savior.

They saw two pictures of the Savior in the Old Testament, but couldn't harmonize them.

We even see it with the *Shama* that we studied last week:

Deuteronomy 6:4—"Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Deuteronomy 6:5—Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Psalm 18:28—LORD, you light my lamp; my God illuminates my darkness.

Psalm 18:30—God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is pure.

Psalm 18:31—For who is God besides the LORD?

Are there two Saviors?

If these men had only listened to Jesus from the beginning.

If they had only taken their eyes off themselves.

They would have learned that there was only one Savior, but that He would be both human and divine.

Theologically, we call the two natures of Christ—*the hypostatic union*.

Their view of the Savior was far too small.

And Jesus is telling them that He's too big to fit into any box.

He would suffer and die as the Lamb of God.

He would then rise from the dead.

The resurrection proves that He is the Son of God.

The Pharisees knew that the Savior was the Son of David—a partial truth.

KEYPOINT:

Partial truths are demonically deadly.

Partial truths are what false religions focus on:

1. Jesus is not divine.
2. Works-based salvation.

And that's what the Pharisees were teaching.

But Peter reminded these same Pharisees of the truth and nothing but the truth...

Acts 2:34—For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says: The Lord declared to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand

Acts 2:35—until I make your enemies your footstool.'

Acts 2:36—"Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah (God & Savior)."

Matthew 22:46—No one was able to answer him at all, and from that day no one dared to question him anymore.

The Pharisees had their "Job" moment.

Tragically, they were dumbfounded but not convinced, silenced but not convicted, humiliated but not humbled.

They dared not ask Jesus any more questions, not because they had believed the truth, but because they were afraid to face the truth.

APPLICATION:

Lined area for application notes.

APPLICATION:

The most important question that we will ever answer is —“**Who is Jesus?**”

The reason that we exist as a church is to answer that question.

- It's why we teach the Gospels so slowly.
- It's why we offer a variety of Bible studies throughout the week.

We want you to know and experience the Lord Jesus—by what He has to say about Himself through His Holy Word—the Book!

Not what we think about Jesus—but rather what He says about Himself.

Secondly—What we hear vs. How we hear.

What you're going to hear every week is a verse-by-verse exposition and explanation of the life of Jesus.

What you're hearing is our responsibility as a church.

Your responsibility is how you hear.

How we hear involves intention and motives.

selflessness/heartlessness of our heart

Four ways we hear:

1. Tickling Ears—

2 Timothy 4:3—For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear.

2 Timothy 4:4—They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.

We see tickling ears in the Prosperity Gospel.

Best Life now—don't want to hear about sin, death, hell, or judgment.

Don't want to hear about how they need to change and repent.

2. American Ears—

“I want a church that teaches what I believe.”

Do we see the danger in that? Their minds are already made up/ unteachable.

If a pastor is doing his job—it doesn't matter how big the congregation is—he has an audience of One—the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I want a church that has music that I like, a good children's ministry, and don't forget the coffee bar.”

Those with American ears hop from church to church—restless and unsatisfied, unaware that they are the problem.

They refuse to give and serve—because they think the church is there to serve them.

Or, they have given up on the church and, at best, watch church online.

Hebrews 10:25—not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other,

3. Critiquing Ears— (Angry Ears / Pharasaic Ears)

These folks are the people who can't wait for the pastor to say something (in their opinion) wrong.

Or maybe the pastor's tone was off, or perhaps he said something that didn't sound right, or maybe the pastor was having a bad day.

Regardless, those with critical ears are like attorneys.

2 Timothy 3:7—always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. (Grace).

4. Berean Ears—

We learned about the Bereans in our Acts Bible study, didn't we?

Acts 17:11—The people here (Berea, near Thessalonica) were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

These are the people who:

- Want to be fed the Word of God.
- Realize they don't have all the answers.
- Consider that they may be wrong in certain areas of doctrine.
- Can't wait to gather to worship the Lord, serve one another, and give.

Remember the old Verizon commercial? "Can you hear me now?"

What kind of ears do you have this morning?


1. Tickling
2. American
3. Critiquing
4. Berean

Matthew 11:15—Let anyone who has ears listen.

—Pharisees did not
Job Did.

When Jesus says “listen,” He means repent.

Jesus' first sermon—

 **Matthew 4:17**—~~From then on Jesus began to preach,~~ “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

I can't help but think of our losses over the past month:

- James Dobson
- John MacArthur
- Charlie Kirk
- Voddie Baucham

Charlie and Voddie in the prime of their life—on mission— for the Kingdom of God.

Yet, “***All things work together for good, for those who love God and are called to His purpose.***”

They preached and taught—but was anyone listening? *Now it's to late*

My encouragement to you this week is to:

1. Ask the Lord what kind of ears you have.
2. To listen to the questions that the Lord is asking you through His Word.

Prayerfully, we're humble enough to repent of our sin—and become better listeners.

PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

BENEDICTION

“May the Lord bless you and protect you; May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; May the Lord look with favor on you and give you peace.”
(Num. 6:24)

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