

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #259

Tuesday of Passion Week... Day of Testing and Teaching

Jesus Questions the Pharisees About David's Relationship to the Messiah in Ps. 110
MT 22.41-46 (Parallel Texts: MK 12.34B-37; LK 20.40-44)

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 *"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"*

"The son of David," they replied.

^M"How is it that you teachers of the law say that Christ is the son of David? 43 ^{MT}"How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? ^LFor he says in the Book of Psalms:

44 ^{MT}"THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD:
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND
UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES
UNDER YOUR FEET." (Ps. 110.1)

45 *"Since David ^Mhimself ^{MT}calls him 'Lord,' how then can he be his son?"*

46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions. ^MBut the large crowd listened to him with delight.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Temple Courts in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	C. Tuesday: Day of Testing and Teaching
Title	9. Jesus Questions the Pharisees About David's Relationship to the Messiah

COMMENT:

After effortlessly answering three of the toughest questions his enemies could muster against him, in today's reading Jesus asked just one question of them. It confounded them so effectively that they fell permanently silent. No one dared ask Jesus any more questions.

Jesus' question brought together the issues of authority, Biblical knowledge, and most important, the knowledge of God in one package. It was a blockbuster. He quoted Ps. 110.1, and demonstrated that the common expectations of the Messiah held by Pharisees and experts in the Scriptures were in conflict with this Scripture.

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Jesus had a huge secret weapon that his enemies were clueless about. As an eternal member of the Trinity, Jesus knew the reality of the relationship between Father, Son, and Spirit perfectly. We owe our knowledge of the truth of the Trinity to Jesus himself—it is a uniquely Christian doctrine that defines New Covenant faith.

We believe in, and experience God as a Trinitarian Being because Jesus revealed this truth to us, and opened it up to us in our experience through his grace.

The reality of the Trinity is hinted at in the Old Testament, in passages such the creation of the human race, "**Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...**" (Gen. 1.26.), or the "**Son of Man**" in Dan. 7.13-14. The nature of God as Trinity is totally compatible with the Old Testament; in fact, like everything else about Jesus, it fulfills the Old Testament perfectly.

Ps. 110 is another passage in the Old Testament in which the truth of the Trinity underlies the content. This is what Jesus unleashed on his enemies with his question. The great significance of the encounters of Isaiah (Ch. 6), David (Ps. 110. 1-4), and Daniel (Ch. 7.12-14) with the Pre-existent Jesus that we covered in the early DAILY JESUS NEWS postings (DJN #002 and #003) become more clear now, when Jesus used one of them to confound the Pharisees with the truth of the Trinity as David experienced it in Ps. 110.

Jesus pointed out the quandary that David experienced in receiving the revelation that one of his offspring would live forever, and reign over the kingdom of God. In Jewish thinking, an ancestor was always greater than their descendants. The Messiah was called the "**Son of David,**" which was a legitimate Biblical title for him. Many people had called Jesus by this name on Sunday—his day of acclamation as the Messiah. In this view the Messiah was incredibly great, to be as great as his ancestor, King David.

However, the Messiah was also infinitely greater than his ancestor David. His human nature descended from David, as promised, but his eternal divine nature had no point of human origin—Jesus was eternally God. Therefore, the Father spoke Ps. 110.1 to Jesus, David's LORD: "**The LORD said to MY Lord; Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.**"

The truth of the Trinity meant that David's descendant according to the flesh was also his LORD and GOD. Jesus was the eternal Son of God who shared the same divine nature with his Father, whom David also called his Lord and God. This was the truth that David struggled with in Ps. 110, which Jesus' enemies had never considered until he made it plain before them. Jesus was the only bonafide human expert in history on the nature of God as Trinity, because he was also eternally divine, the 2nd Person of the Trinity.

One can almost hear Jesus chuckling as he tossed out the mystery of the Trinity—as witnessed to by King David in the Scriptures—to his overwhelmed, helpless enemies.

It is never a good idea for sinful people with very limited knowledge to engage the omniscient Creator of the universe in a debate. Jesus' enemies had no idea they were doing that, but the Lord did. It would have been hilarious, if the consequences of rejecting the Son of God were not so tragic. No wonder Jesus will be expressing his broken-hearted sorrow over Jerusalem again in just a few minutes.

APPLICATION:

The doctrine of the Trinity is not just a matter of a tenant in a creed, or an axiom of propositional theology. It is the reality that created and sustains everything else in the universe.

The truth of the Divinity of Jesus Christ necessitates the truth of the Trinity. It is the bedrock understanding that separates Christians from other forms of monotheism, and all paganism. Jesus gave us this precious doctrine. We ought to treasure it, as he did, as the most awesome thing about God that has ever been revealed.