

SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

SUBJECT: LORD OF ALL

SCRIPTURE: MARK 12:35-40

SERMON NO. 27

Introduction

When my cousin Monroe and I were little children we made two kites out of weed sticks, brown paper sacks and paste from flour and water. We sincerely believed if we tied the two kits on our arms and jump off the roof of the barn we could fly. Guess who tried it first? Let me just say that Monroe didn't get a chance.

Being sincere is simply not enough. If the facts are false, you may sincerely believe them, but you will be sincerely wrong. It really does matter what we believe-especially when it comes to the truth.

In our text Jesus confronts the scribes with an important question about what they really believed to be the truth about the Messiah. Was the Messiah to be merely a human national deliverer, or was He more than that?

Jesus reveals the supernatural nature of the Messiah, and the position of leadership that He is due in human beings' lives.

We must ask ourselves three important questions:

- 1) What are the implications of Christ's lordship for me?
- 2) Do I really understand what it means when the Bible says "Jesus is Lord"?
- 3) What do I really believe about Jesus?

What we believe is important. 1. Because what we believe determines how we behave. 2. If we accept Christ for who He is-the Lord-then we will see ourselves for who we are-His servants. First it will challenge us to look upward, and second it will challenge us to look inward. Each challenge has a strong implication.

I. AN UPWARD LOOK-A SUPERNATURAL LORD.

1. Jesus Goes on the Offensive (35). Jesus Said while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David?

Jesus is challenging these scribes to tell Him what they really believed about the Messiah. The word Messiah and the word Christ are the same word. Both of them mean "anointed one."

The Scribes and religious leaders were expecting this anointed one to be a national, political hero who would deliver them from the bondage of Rome. They knew all about the prophecies that indicated that the Messiah would come from David's line and would sit on David's throne.

They expected the Messiah to be a physical descendant of David, just a man. The thought of the supernatural never entered their thinking.

Jesus, uses their own Scriptural knowledge in questioning them. (36-37) David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The Lord said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. 37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly. The thought of the supernatural never entered

their thinking. To them, the promised Messiah would simply be a man.

2. Messiah as Lord? When Jesus said, "**David himself calls him Lord**". The scribes had never thought of that. The Messiah could not be both David's son and his Lord if He were only human. It would take a human being who was also divine to do that. They had never thought of the Messiah in terms of being a supernatural being. They were looking for a human deliverer. They wanted freedom from the bondage of Roman rule. But what the world needed was freedom from the bondage of sin. A human leader might win them political freedom, but it would take a divine leader to sacrifice Himself and give them spiritual freedom.

3. Jesus was a physical descendant from David. As a matter of fact, as you trace the lineage of Jesus you find that on both sides of his family He descended from David. Both Joseph and Mary were from David's line.

Jesus really was not physically descended from Joseph. So, His physical lineage had to be traced through Mary because He was divinely conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit without the benefit of Joseph. That fact made Jesus both divine and human. According to the flesh of His mother, Mary, Jesus was a descendant of David. But according to the power of the Holy Spirit, He was the Son of God. And the resurrection proved it.

The message Jesus was speaking to these religious leaders is clear: The Messiah is both human and divine. He is both physical and supernatural. He is both David's son and David's Lord.

4. Implications for us. The earliest statement of faith known to Christianity is this... Jesus Christ is Lord. But what does that mean to you and me? What does it mean to say Jesus is Lord?

We have taken the name of thinking that Lord is simply part of Jesus' name. Lord is a term exclusively reserved for God. It means, supreme authority. To say that the Messiah, the Christ, is Lord, is to say that the Messiah is God. As God, He is the supreme ruler of all creation including you and me.

The implications of Jesus being Lord are huge! If Jesus is Lord, then one day everyone will all be accountable to Him. If Jesus is my Lord, then I'm under obligation to obey Him, right now.

But the scribes and religious leaders didn't see His lordship, so they went on their way calling attention to themselves. And friends, unless we see the reality of the Lordship of Christ with its implications for our lives, we will, like the scribes, go about our business and end up serving ourselves instead of the Christ.

So, there's the upward look. Jesus is a supernatural Lord. He is God. He is the supreme authority.

II. AN INWARD LOOK-MY LIFESTYLE

If Jesus really is your Lord, then it follows that you will adopt a certain kind of lifestyle that will please your Lord. But if He's not your Lord, like He wasn't the Lord of the Scribes, then you will adopt a very different lifestyle-a lifestyle very much like that of the Scribes.

1. The Scribes. Before we examine this issue of our lifestyle, it's important to understand just how these scribes lived.

Scribes were easily recognized because they wore long, white linen robes which reached all the way down to their feet. The bottom of these robes, were hemmed by a long, white fringe. Most of the common people wore colored robes. But these fancy white robes made the scribes stand out wherever they went

The scribes were commonly greeted by the respectful title of "rabbi", which means "my great one" or "master." When a scribe passed by, the people rose respectfully to honor him. At the feasts of the wealthy, scribes were given the place of honor, seated to the right and left of the host.

In Jesus' day, scribes were honored above the elderly, even above their own parents. In the synagogues, the scribes were given the place of ultimate honor-they sat on a bench with their backs against the chest that held the Torah, with their faces toward the congregation. That way they could be seen by everyone. They were considered holy men, and most of them in Jesus' day played the part very well. Most of them were proud and arrogant. And Jesus zeros in on this.

Mark 12:38-40 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, 39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: 40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence, make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation. Jesus lets these power dressing, prideful pretenders, have it. They had chosen to serve themselves rather than God.

We will either serve the Lord Jesus Christ, or we will end up serving ourselves-which ultimately is serving God's enemy, Satan, himself. That's exactly what the scribes did.

2. Us. In the New Testament, a Christian should be known as one who seeks to serve, seeks to give, seeks to love, seeks to build up- all the things that are important to God and necessary to "...His Kingdom coming".

But so often because of the greed and self-centeredness that surrounds us, even Christians buy into the ways of the world, rather than the ways of God. Too many of the followers of God have placed themselves at the center of their universe instead of God. And all it takes for that to happen is for a person to disregard the implications of the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Jesus rebuked and refuted this self-centered lifestyle of the scribes. They loved to walk around in their flowing robes so people could see them, and could greet them respectfully, and would stand in their presence. They loved to go to banquets so they could sit in the most prestigious seats. They loved being in the center of things. They loved the honor and deference. Since they hadn't submitted to the Lord, they were busy making themselves their Lord.

Conclusion

You see, friends, what you believe really does matter. It determine how you behave. Especially when it comes to Jesus, the Christ. What you believe about Jesus determines whether you live your life for Him or for yourself.

On one occasion, Jesus asked His disciples a very important question. He asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus is asking you that very question this morning. Who do you say I am? Who is He to you? -Is He merely a historical figure? -Is He simply someone you've learned about in church and Sunday School? -Is

He someone who was a prophet or a good teacher? -Is He merely your fire insurance from Hell? Or is He your Lord?

Only as we see the risen Christ as our Lord-the Leader of our lives-can we begin to see ourselves for who we need to be-His servants. -Becoming a Christian means that I commit myself to allowing Jesus to make a difference in my life...every day. -Becoming a Christian means that I not only acknowledge Him as the Lord, but I also acknowledge Him as my Lord. And this acknowledgement is not merely a verbal acknowledgement, it is an acknowledgement by the very way I live my life...to honor him according to His holy Word.

You have noticed T-shirts that teen agers wear with the question What Would Jesus Do? It seems to me that the pressing need for Christians today is to ask that very same question: What would Jesus do? You see, the implications of Christ's Lordship or leadership in my and life, and yours... means that we must ask ourselves that question in every decision we face, "What would Jesus have me do?" Then we must do it.