

## **“What Think Ye Of Christ?”**

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Matthew 22:41-46

The Bible records nearly 300 questions that Jesus asked.<sup>1</sup> He was a Master interrogator. Jesus was an expert at asking the right questions. Some of the questions Jesus asked were:

- “Why call ye me, Lord, or Sir, and obey not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)
- “Where is your faith? (Luke 8:25).
- “What shall I profit a man, if he shall gain the world, and lose his own soul? (Mk. 8:36)
- “How can ye escape the damnation of hell? (Mt. 23:33)
- “What wilt thou have I should do unto thee? (Mk. 10:51; Luke 18:41).
- “Why Goest thou, my Goest thou, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mt. 27:46).
- “Who loves thou me? (John 21:15-17)
- “Where are the nine? (Luke 17:11-19).

Over the next few months we will consider these and several other questions Jesus asked.

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Any professional journalist will tell you that it is critical to ask the right question to elicit the right information. This was very apparent at last week’s Republican Presidential debate. I think the Fox News panel did a great job asking probing questions that forced the candidates to deal with issues and not just “talking points.”

Jesus never asked a question for His own benefit. Christ’s questions were designed to engage a conversation, bring conviction, provoke people to think, or force someone to confront an important truth.

For example, sometimes Jesus would answer a question by asking a question (see Mt. 21:23-27). By this exchange Jesus linked His ministry with that of John the Baptist’s. It was a “package deal.”

➡ In Matthew 22 our Lord was confronted by the religious leaders of His day. They asked him several questions about religion and politics, marriage, and the Law of Moses—the same kind of questions people still ask today. Remember, the motive behind them asking these question (v. 15).

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<sup>1</sup> Stan Guthrie, *All That Jesus Asks*, BakerBooks, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2010, Kindle edition

After silencing all their questions, Jesus poses a question to them. It is as though He were saying, "You have asked me questions, but now, I have a question for you. What is really important is not about paying taxes, marriages in heaven, or which commandment is the greatest. The most important issue is *"WHAT IS THE ISSUE OF CHRIST?"* It is probably the most important question Jesus ever asked. It is the question to end all questions (v. 46).

This is the question that I want YOU to consider today.

**I. It is a PERSONAL question—*"What is the issue of Christ?"***

- A. It is a question that YOU must answer. No one else can answer it for you.
- B. It is an unavoidable question. You cannot be neutral about Christ.
- C. Notice, the question is NOT:
  - 1. What do you think of the church?
  - 2. What do you think of some other Christian?
  - 3. What do you think of some a preacher?
  - 4. But, *"What is the issue of Christ?"* Jesus Christ is the issue—He will always be the issue. That is why the world wants to talk about anything, BUT Christ!

➡ Your answer will have a lot to do with how you spend eternity.

**II. It is a PROVOCATIVE question—*"What do you think of Christ?"***

- A. The REQUIREMENT for you to think.
  - 1. Sadly, many people don't like to think now-a-days. Television is proof of that. They want someone else to do the thinking for them. Adolf Hitler once said, "How fortunate for governments that the people they administer don't think."
  - 2. Many don't think of Christ at all! Psalm 10:4 says of the wicked, *"God is not in all his thoughts."* Why? Because thinking about God, the Bible, or eternity makes people feel uneasy.

- B. The RELATIONSHIP in your thinking. Your relationship to Jesus Christ will be based on what you think of Him. If you think He is God, you will obey Him. If you think He is the Savior, you will trust Him. If you think He is just another man, you'll reject Him.
- C. The RESPONSE of your thinking. A person's lifestyle will usually reflect what he thinks of Christ (Prov. 23:7).
- I was created in the image of God, therefore I have the ability to choose or decide.
  - When I'm confronted with a fact, whatever that fact may be, I deal with it first in my mind.
  - My opinion of the fact depends upon my emotional attitude towards it. I like it or dislike it... I love it or hate it... I accept it or reject it... or, I don't care. **Those are emotional responses.**
  - The thinking is the deepest thing. Then my emotions are moved by my thinking. My will is often influenced by my emotion.
  - It is possible for a man to think one thing, then be moved emotionally by that thought, and yet by the act of the will refuse to obey the emotion or intellect. That is one of the greatest dangers in our lives.
  - This often happens concerning Christ. People are confronted with the truth of Christ, but because of their depraved emotional nature, reject Him, in spite of the facts.

**III. It is a PERTINENT question—“*Wha hin ye o CHRIST? Whose Son is he?*”**

➡ It is crucial that our thoughts of Christ be correct. Every doctrine in the Bible hangs on the answer to this question—“*Wha hin ye OF CHRIST.*”

- A. The INDIFFERENCE of many. Sad to say, many think it doesn't make any difference who Christ was. But it makes all the difference between heaven or hell.

B. The INACCURACY of many. Many who have wrong thoughts about Christ.

1. Mormons think Jesus was a mortal man who attained godhood.
2. Jehovah Witnesses think Jesus was a lesser god who was created by a bigger god.
3. Muslims think Jesus was a great prophet.
4. Hindus think Jesus was an *avatar* of God.
5. Modernists think Jesus was the illegitimate son of a German soldier.

C. The IGNORANCE of the Pharisees—*“Whose son is he?”* They answer, *“The son of David”* (v. 42). Amen! So far so good— Jesus was indeed *“the Son of David”* (Mt. 1:1; 12:23; 15:22; 21:9).

➔ But, notice how Jesus befuddled them with His follow-up question quoting Psalm 110:1 (vs. 43-45)

1. Jesus points out David was speaking *“in spirit”* or *“by the Holy Spirit”* (Mk. 12:36) when he called Him *“my Lord”*. In other words, David calling his son *“my Lord”* came by revelation from God.

2. In Jewish culture it was always first the father, then the son. No Jewish father would ever address his son as *“my Lord”*. How could Christ be David's Son, when David called Him *“my Lord”*?

3. The only way David's Son could be David's Lord was David's Son would be David's God, manifest in the flesh.

4. Once a man admits that David's Son is David's Lord, then he is forced to also admit David's Lord must be David's God come down to earth, in the flesh.

➔ The religious leaders were stumped. They failed to believe the Messiah would be God incarnate. *“In no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man ask him any more questions”* (Mt. 22:46). By not being

able to answer this question, the Pharisees showed their ignorance of their own Scriptures.

**SUMMATION:** *“What kind of **CHRIST**? Whose Son is he?* Your answer will determine your relationship with Him and how you will spend eternity.

How has your thoughts of Christ changed your life? If there is no difference in how you live, you have not thought rightly about Christ.