

Small Group Discussion and Prayer Guide

May 14, 2023

Read: Matthew 22:41-46

Summary:

In this passage, Jesus criticizes the Pharisees understanding of Messiah by challenging their idea of his identity as the “Son of David.” This title came from a promise God made to David, recorded in both 2 Samuel 7:1-16 and 1 Chronicles 17:1-14. In these passages, God promised David to establish the throne of his offspring forever, and this led to an expectation of Messiah as a descendant of King David who would deliver the people of Israel from their enemies just as David did. Messiah was therefore seen by the Pharisees as a deliverer like but certainly not greater than David.

Jesus challenges this idea by quoting from Psalm 110, a Psalm of David in which he speaks of Messiah, saying, “The LORD (Yahweh) says to my Lord (Adonai), ‘sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’”

Jesus is asserting that Messiah is not only David’s Son, the deliverer, but David’s Lord, the one who sits at the right hand of God. Jesus is not rejecting the title of Son of David, but he is subtly condemning the Pharisees for desiring a deliverer without being willing to submit to Jesus as Lord. This teaches us that we must receive Jesus as both Lord and Savior; we must surrender to him as the Lord of our life as well as receiving him as the deliverer from sin and death.

Where this gets a little bit tricky is the reality that none of us have in fact surrendered completely and perfectly to Jesus. We have never obeyed him perfectly, and as we grow we will continue to find ways in which we are still called to surrender yet more to him as Lord. Thus, the Christian is not the person who is perfect and has already arrived, but instead is the person who is fundamentally oriented toward the pursuit of Jesus and resurrection life with him. The Christian is the one who, in his struggle and failure, is consistently longing to be rid of his sin, to follow Jesus, and to press on toward maturity in Him. Such a person recognizes that Jesus has already done everything for us, and for our greatest joy he has therefore called us to surrender everything to him.

Ask:

- How have you seen Jesus deliver you? From what has he saved you?
- Have you ever come to a point in life and realized that you have to learn a lesson in faith that you thought you had learned before?
 - For example, you thought you had entrusted your life to Jesus, but something makes you worry and you have to learn to trust him again in a new way
 - Or, you thought you had submitted to His authority, but you discover that you have allowed something to rise to a place of priority that challenges his reign in your life
- Where in your life has it been most difficult to surrender to Jesus?
- Have you found surrendering to Jesus to be in the end joyful or painful? Why?
- Where in your life are you right now struggling to surrender to Jesus!

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Pray:

- Praise Jesus as the King of the Cosmos who reigns at the right hand of the Father
- Thank Jesus that he has always been more faithful to us than we are to him
- Confess that we at times struggle to surrender to him
- Ask him to help us see particular ways in which we need to surrender to him now
- Ask him to help us have courage and humility to surrender in those ways