



## The Messiah's Divine Authority

### Key idea:

Jesus calls everyone to embrace the true identity and authority of Messiah - the Son of God!

### Key text:

Mark 12:35-37

While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" The large crowd listened to him with delight.

### Key points:

1. In the last "conflict story" in the Temple, Jesus takes the offensive and poses a question about the identity of the Messiah to the leaders who have been questioning him.
2. Jesus' question revolves around the conundrum that the Messiah is the son of David, but David Himself called the Messiah his Lord. How can the Messiah be both David's son and his Lord?
3. The Old Testament shows that the Messiah has Divine authority. It does this in three key ways:
  - a. The Messiah has a throne and Kingdom that are different from and superior to David's throne and kingdom.
  - b. The Messiah is both a King and a Priest, not in the order of Levi, but in the order of Melchizedek.
  - c. The Messiah is not only the son of David - He is the Son of God!

### Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?

2. Why does Jesus go on the offensive at this point in the day of conflicts in the Temple?
3. Why does Jesus begin by pointing out that everyone agrees that the Messiah is the son of David? Why is this important to get those hearing Him to ponder the real question He is about to pose?
4. Why does Jesus stress that David's words in Psalm 110 are actually inspired by the Holy Spirit? How does this add strength to His argument?
5. Why does David calling the Messianic king his "Lord" create a seeming problem with this person also being the son of David? What was this meant to cause those reading the Psalm to do?
6. How is the Messianic Kingdom similar to and related to the Kingdom of David? How is it different and distinct from David's kingdom? Why is this important in understanding Jesus' mission and why many in Israel misunderstood and rejected Him?
7. Why do I think the writers of the New Testament quoted or alluded to Psalm 110 more than any other passage of Scripture?
8. In Hebrews 1:1-4 the writer describes Jesus as the True Prophet, Priest, and King. Why is it important that the Messiah would fulfill all three of these offices? (For further information, see [Question 27 in our catechism](#)).
9. Why is it important to understand that the Messiah is not just the son of David, but that He is also the Son of God? How is this related to the Divine Authority of the Messiah?
10. These 5 conflicts began with the leaders asking Jesus by what authority He was acting and teaching. How does this question posed by Jesus answer that question?
11. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Good News of God's grace?