

Humble yourself before God (like Jesus), and He will exalt you

Context

- 1] Jesus, during the last week of His life on earth, had swept into Jerusalem with a crowd of fellow pilgrims who were acknowledging Him as King.
- 2] As he taught in the temple there had been two reactions – ‘the people had hung on His words’ while the Temple authorities ‘were seeking to destroy Him’ (19:48,47).
- 3] They had sought to trap Him asking about authority, paying Roman taxes and belief in the resurrection, but He silenced them with His wisdom.
- 4] The last time, He had put down the faction of the Aristocratic, religious Sadducees. That pleased the faction of the Scribes / church Lawyers and, as it says - ‘they no longer dared to ask Him any questions’ (20:40)

5] **But he said to them (41a)**

I.e. He now turns on the Scribes / religious lawyers

Jesus (20:41-44)

1] **How can they say that the Christ (the delivering, King) is David’s son (41b)**

Nb As in many cultures there is a veneration of ancestors. In Jewish culture, there is none more so that of Great King David, who united the northern & southern Kingdoms and established an empire.

Nb Jesus had been greeted as Messiah / King, Son of David – Peter (9:20); blind beggar in Jericho (18:38,39) ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord’. (19:38)

2] Question - **David, himself says in the Psalms** (old part of the bible) (Ps 110:1) **“The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool” (42,43)**

i.e. Lord (Yahweh / God almighty) to my Lord (Adonai / king & superior) (David’s descendent will be The King / his superior???)

Nb make enemies a footstool = to defeat all His enemies and bring them into submission

Cf at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow (Phil 2:10) all authority in Heaven & earth is given to me (Mt28:18)

3] **David thus calls him ‘Lord’, so how is He his son? (44)**

I.e. How can this be – surely the Christ / the king who will deliver us is David’s son?

i.e. inference of divine? Cf who can forgive sins but God alone (5:18-26)

Nb The King / messiah = Jesus - the reversal

- a) Was born in poverty / a refugee a peasant from ‘sticks’

Cf He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him and no beauty that we should desire Him (Is 53:2)

- b) He was rejected by the religious authorities of the day

Cf He was despised and rejected by men (Is 53:3)

- c) He would be crucified with criminals His followers scattered

“Though He was in the form of God, He did not count equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:6-10)

Nb Jesus humbled Himself (became last) and God made Him first! Cf (13:30)

Cf I am among you as one who serves (22:27) cf Jesus washes His disciples’ feet (Jn 13:1ff)

Sit under Scripture and acknowledge / address them

The religious Lawyers (20:45-47)

1] **said to His disciples (45b)**

I.e. whoever does not bear His cross and come after me cannot be my disciple (14:27)

2] **In hearing of people (45a)**

I.e. an open invitation to all

3] **Beware the scribes (46,47a)**

nb Scribes - against Jesus from early (5:21,30; 6:7)

a) **who like to (46)**

- 1) **walk around in long robes and**
- 2) **love greetings in the marketplace and**
- 3) **the best seats in the synagogues and**
- 4) **the place of honour at feasts (46)**

Cf Pharisees choosing seats of honour (14:1,7)

Do not glory in ritual, acclaim of men or pride of position

b) **who devour widows' houses (47a)**

i.e. self-serving ways – preying on the weakest - most defence less people of the day

Do not take advantage of the weak to make personal gain

c) **and for a pretence make long prayers (47b)**

i.e. The Hypocrites – they love to stand and pray that they may be seen by others ---their many words--(Mt 6:5-7)

Do not pretend to be 'holy'

4] **They will receive the greater condemnation (47c)**

I.e. at the day of judgement

God has a day of judgement when sin will be condemned

The widow (21:1-4)

1] **Jesus looked up (1a)**

I.e. He was sitting teaching His disciples

2] **and saw (1b, 2)**

a) **The rich putting their gifts in the offering box (1b)**

nb in the Temple, court of Women, 13 collection boxes for Temple expenses

nb giving to needy – do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing (Matt 6:3)

b) **and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins (2)**

nb the smallest piece of Jewish currency lepta 'cf 1p' – 1/100th of a labourer's wage

two - she could have given less but chose to give all

3] **and he said (3)**

a) **Truly, I tell you,**

cf this generation will not pass away (21:32) today you will be with me in Paradise (23: 43)

b) **this poor widow has put in more than all of them**

cf (1st into the Kingdom - the thief on the cross (23:43)

God looks at our heart not our 'offerings'

**GRACE God gave His all – His only begotten son (Jn 3:16) **

4] **For (4)**

a) **they all contributed out of their abundance**

b) **but she out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on**

**humble yourself before the Lord and He will exalt you' (James 4:10) **

Summary How can David be the son of His descendent as the psalmist claims? (41-44)

Jesus taught His disciples in the crowds hearing, to be humble, unlike the Scribes. (45-47)

He contrasted the rich and a widow putting their gifts in at the collection boxes, noting that God considered her tiny, deliberate, self-sacrificial gift more than the richest's gift (2:1-4)

KV David thus calls Him Lord, so how is He his son? (20:44)

MP The first will be last and the last first