

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 20:41-44

Reading: Psalm 110

Parallel Passages: Matthew 22:41-46 and Mark 12:35-37

Sermon 87
August 9, 2020

How Can Jesus Be Lord and Son?

He Is God and Man

King David was blessed with a special privilege as was the Apostle John. The Apostle John was given the extreme privilege to see and hear what was taking place in heaven and wrote of it in the Book of Revelation. David was given the privileged to overhear a conversation between God the Father and God the Son in eternity past and he wrote of it in Psalm 110. David hears the conversation and then writes it down for us to read in verse 1, [“The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ”](#)

What wonder and awe must have been in King David’s heart as he contemplated this divine truth. His Lord would soon be seated next to God the Father. Not only seated but seated on the right-hand side, showing majesty and power. David goes on in that Psalm to describe One who is his sovereign superior. His description matches only One Person. Only One Person qualifies as the One David is speaking of in Psalm 110 - Jesus Christ who beyond human ability fulfilled all the Messianic prophesies of the Old Testament. The question is, “Why do the Jewish leaders not recognize who Jesus is?”

Throughout chapter 20 of Luke the Jewish leadership has tried to embarrass Jesus doctrinally, politically and to discredit Him as a teacher. They begin by questioning His authority to cleanse the temple. They asked Him difficult questions in the attempt to turn His followers away and expose Him as a

sham. Their attempts at putting Jesus on the hot seat have not worked out quite the way they had envisioned. In fact, in all cases they are the ones who looked foolish.

Now it is Jesus' turn to ask them a question. This question is of vital importance to all mankind. It should be a question that every leader of Israel knew the answer to, but sad to say, they did not. Jesus' question is really in the form of a riddle. The only conclusion to this riddle is that Jesus Christ is both David's descendant or Son and David's Lord. In other words, He is both man and God together in the same person. The answer to this riddle opens up the gates to heaven as one sees this in the Gospel with their spiritual eyes.

Our great need is to know the Jesus of the Bible, to embrace Him, surrender to Him, believe in Him as God, Savior, Lord and the Christ; because there is salvation in none other. We have the great need to have our eyes opened to the fact that Jesus is both wholly man and wholly God in one Person and He will be forever.

To believe these things about Jesus means salvation for the believer. One knows the true Christ mostly fully through God's revealed Word, the Bible. We are often exposed to man-made ideas and opinions about Jesus. Many have formulated and fashioned their own Jesus from their imagination. This is used by the evil one to take people's belief away from the true Christ. We must make sure we are worshipping the Jesus of the Bible. We do this as we allow the Bible to show us who Jesus is and what He is like. To believe in another Jesus; as Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Islam and so many other false religions is to suffer eternally.

Let me pray as we prepare to hear the Word of God revealed.

Today, we hear Jesus' Words concerning Himself in the form of a riddle. Listen to this short passage from Luke chapter 20, ⁴¹ "But he said to them, 'How can they say that the Christ is David's son?' ⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms, 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, ⁴³ until I make your enemies your footstool.'" ⁴⁴ David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son? "

He Is David's Son

The Lord Jesus has derailed every attempt of the Sadducees and Pharisees and the Sanhedrin to show Him to not be from God nor to have the authority of God. Should the people pay taxes to Caesar or not? Whose wife will the woman be in the age to come who was married to 7 brothers? Now, Jesus decided to reverse the roles and He asks these learned Jewish men a question that puts pressure on them to demonstrate their knowledge of God's Word. Jesus asks in verse 41, "How can they say that the Christ or Messiah is David's son?" Unlike Jesus' wise responses that show He has the authority of God these Jewish leaders are forced to remain silent and give no response. People then may assume they do not know the answer or they do not want to answer because it would further demonstrate Jesus' authority. If they had attempted to answer then the people would have clearly seen their ignorance. They are discredited in the eyes of the people but their silence limited their embarrassment and left them some wiggle-room to make excuses.

The Old Testament makes clear the Messiah would be of the lineage of King David. For example, in 2 Samuel we read speaking of David, ¹² "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son." (2 Samuel 7:12-14) The

prophet Isaiah makes clear the Messiah will come from the lineage of King David, ⁶“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.” (Isaiah 9:6-7) So clearly the Messiah would be a Son of King David and by the records kept there was no doubt who was a descent of David. Jesus was a descendant of David by both His mother and step-father. Since the reign of David ended in 970 B.C. there had never lived a man who did the signs and wonders Jesus had done for the last 3 years. Further, no person had fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Messiah except Jesus. Connecting all these things should have shouted, “Here is the long-awaited Messiah!”

For many would not comprehend until Jesus rose from the dead and the words of the prophet Isaiah would ring out, ⁵“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. ... ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.” (Isaiah 35:5-6 and 42:6-7) If these Old Testament scholars had compared the writings of the prophets and the observed life of Jesus there would have been only one conclusion; Jesus is the Messiah. The simple fact was Jesus being the Messiah should not have been a surprise. It was humanly impossible for someone who was a mere man to have accomplished all that had been written in the Old Testament. However, they missed it and the world continues to miss the

fact Jesus is the Christ even though as history unfolds there is more and more evidence. For those of us, as the prophet said, who have experienced our “[eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped](#)” we are to live sharing the good news of Jesus the Messiah or Christ. We have been blessed with 2 things the saints of old did not have; God the Holy Spirit to dwell within each believer for spiritual insight and the completed Word of God, the Bible. We have been traveling through Luke’s Gospel Account and early on he made clear Jesus would fulfill the Old Testament. Going back to chapter 1, where the angel speaks to Mary, saying ³¹“[behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.](#)” ³²“[He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,](#)” ³³“[and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.](#)” (Luke 1:31-33) Luke echoes the prophecies of Isaiah 7 and Daniel 2. So, all this evidence shows Jesus is the Son of David. Jesus had a human body just like ours. Why did Jesus need to be born a human?

The first Adam was a man just like us and his sin has affected all humans. Adam was the representative head of the human race. When he sinned it corrupted mankind and every person since has lived in sin. To solve this problem God sent a second Adam, His only begotten Son, born in the flesh to rescue us from the condemnation that the first Adam brought on all humanity. Paul clarified this in his letter to the believers in Rome, ¹⁸“[Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.](#)” ¹⁹“[For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.](#)” (Romans 5:18-19). In Paul’s letter to believers in Corinth he says Jesus is the second Adam, ²⁰“[In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen](#)

asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ...

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, *Genesis 2:7* ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.’” (1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 45) Jesus had to be fully human in order to die for mankind’s sins and be the last atoning sacrifice and thus was placed on the cross.

Not a pigeon nor dove nor ram nor bull, but a perfect human without sin or blemish, the first born of God sacrificed for all human sin. Paul explains, ¹⁴ “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

(Hebrew 2:14-18) We understand that unless Jesus was fully human, He could not be the acceptable sacrifice for mankind’s sins. The word “**propitiation**” means because Jesus was perfect and sinless it was only He who could appease the wrath of God against sin and God would look favorably upon those who accept Christ as their Savior for He is perfect and therefore God the Father only has love for Jesus and those who belong to Jesus.

We offend God because of our sin and we needed a Mediator; One who restores the relationship between us and God. This Mediator had to possess qualities of each party, to be able to relate to each party to effectively mediate. Jesus is the only Person who qualifies for He is both God and Man. As

Paul wrote to his spiritual son Timothy, “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6) Jesus the perfect God-man is the only person to qualify as a mediator between God and men and He was born at the proper time and began His ministry at the proper time in God’s plan for salvation

One purpose given mankind when he was created was to rule over and subject the creation to his rule. Because of sin, creation is not subject to man. Man did not fulfill God’s purposes in subduing creation. The writer of Hebrews knew that because of sin - man does not rule over creation. Nature often powers over human efforts and mankind suffers. In chapter 2 of Hebrews we read, ⁵“For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere, *from Psalm 7* ‘What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?’ ⁷You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.’ Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. **At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.**” Now is the Church Age and the world groans under the corruption of the evil as the church waits for the return of the King. The light to this dark world is the church and we read in Ephesians, God the Father raised Jesus, God the Son from the dead and ²²“he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22-23) Another reason Jesus had to be fully human and yet, sinless, was to rule over creation as mankind was originally intended to do. We see time and time again nature is subject to Jesus and He commands and nature and all creation obeys.

It was necessary for Jesus to be a man, a man without sin, in order to be an example to His followers, the children of God. His life is a pattern for believers to follow. As believers we are called by the power of God the Holy Spirit to live as our Lord lived. This is what the Apostle John instructed, “By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” (1 John 2:5-6) The Apostle Peter gave similar instructions, ²¹ “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:21-23) The world may take our mortal lives, but it cannot take heaven from us.

My last point as to why Jesus had to be human is, He understands temptation; He was tempted but did not give in to temptation. Jesus can sympathize with us as with struggle with the temptations of this world. Again, returning to God’s Word in Hebrews chapter 2, speaking of Jesus, ¹⁷ “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Hebrews 2:17-18) The scriptures teach that the Messiah was a man, fully man, a descendant of King David. Jesus was exactly as the scriptures said He would be. He met all the human criteria of being the Messiah and He surpassed the human to be more than any human is capable of because Jesus is fully divine.

He Is David's Lord

Jesus presents the second half of the riddle. Reading at verse 42, “For David himself says in the Book of Psalms, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand,⁴³ until I make your enemies your footstool.’⁴⁴ David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?” At this time in the Middle East it was believed the father was always greater than the son. No son would ever be called the lord of his father nor called lord by his father. Although the father was called lord by the son and his wife. Here Jesus is referring to Psalm 110 as read by Patrick, “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ” Throughout Jesus ministry He has demonstrated His divinity by signs and wonders no human could do. Simply put, Jesus is the only human to do things consistently that only God can do; miracles, signs and wonders. His ability to forgive sin showed Him to be the Son of God. His knowledge of scripture was more than intellectual because He is God; He possessed spiritual wisdom beyond all the scholars, beyond any human.

However, these scholars are smart enough to know exactly what Jesus is talking about here recorded in Luke. God the Father said to God the Son which is also David's Lord, sit at My right hand. These self-imposed leaders of the people know Jesus is speaking about Himself and identifying Himself as One worthy to sit at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. The exchange with the Jewish leadership had a deep impact on the disciples as well. This Psalm quoted by Jesus is repeated or quoted by the disciples throughout the New Testament when they speak of Jesus as Lord. The meaning is plain, Jesus quotes Psalm 110 demonstrating He is more than David's Son for He is also David's Lord because Jesus is David's God. That is the answer to the riddle; Jesus is David's Son and his Lord because only Jesus is fully man and fully God in one Person forever!

How about you? Is Jesus truly your God, your Lord, your Master and because of this He is also your brother and friend; is He your mediator, reconciling you back to God the Father? We have explored why Jesus, as the Messiah, had to be fully human but why did He also need to be divine? What does it mean for us, you and me, that Jesus is divine?

As the Savior of mankind, no finite human would be able to bear and forgive the sins of untold millions through history. Only God is able to do this, as revealed to the prophet Isaiah 7 centuries before the birth of Jesus, ⁶“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.” (Isaiah 9:6-7) The New Testament testifies that Jesus is the only One who can be the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Paul wrote, ³“concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 1:3-4) Jesus is divine because only God can bear the sins of humanity and grant forgiveness.

Further Jesus is divine because only God can provide salvation to those who sin against Him. As Jonah declared, “I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. **Salvation belongs to the LORD!**” (Jonah 2:9) No man could save mankind, only God the Creator of all has that power. God alone saves. Therefore, it had to be God alone to pay the penalty for sin, for God is righteous and sin cannot taint Him. The only solution for mankind’s salvation could only come from God.

Mankind needed a Mediator to reconcile them back to the Holy God. The only person, ever, to possess the attributes of both man and God is Jesus and therefore the only One qualified to resolve the separation between man and God created by man's sin. Even though God revealed Jesus as the Christ in many ways; people had a hard time understanding and I am not speaking of just the Jewish religious leaders. Let me read from John's Gospel Account, ⁸“Philip said to Jesus, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ ⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’” (John 14:8-9) Without Jesus and God the Father being One, there is no salvation.

Jesus in our passage today is saying it is vitally important for one to understand two things. First, Jesus is the Son of David being fully man. Second, Jesus is the Son of God the Father being fully God. Understanding or not understanding the Biblical Jesus, has results, as John wrote, ⁹“Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.” (2 John 9-11) One cannot believe in Jesus, believe in the God of the Scriptures, believe in God's Word and at the same time not abide or be obedient to God's Word. If one is not obedient to the Word of God they are of the world and live in wickedness. We are not to allow anyone into the church or our house whose teachings are not consistent with the Word of God.

Salvation, true salvation, is based on true belief in Jesus as fully man and fully God and the truth of belief is observed when one gives their life fully and without reservation to Jesus and when this happens one gains eternity with God in

heaven. Simple, yet profound and difficult, for man cannot overcome sin or obtain on their own. They need Jesus and the gift He gives to each believer; God the Holy Spirit.

If you do not know Jesus as God the Son, as your Lord and Savior then Jesus speaks to your heart saying, **“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”** (John 10:9) One needs to understand Jesus is the only door to heaven, as He said, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:6) We must believe in and follow the Jesus of God’s Word, not one some false Jesus that man or men have invented or someone has told us about. The true Jesus is the Lord of the Scriptures and to know Him means salvation, and to not know Him or to know the wrong Jesus is to suffer the wrath of God.

Jesus is the Son of David...fully Man and the Son of God... fully divine. How do we know or are we assured we understand unto salvation? ³**“By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** ⁴**Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,** ⁵**but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:** ⁶**whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”** (1 John 2:3-6) So, my beloved, let us believe in Jesus as the son of David, as David’s Lord, as God very God, as the Savior and the sign of our belief will be the living out of God’s Word and obedience to the Word, both written and Living. Amen and amen!