

Matthew 22:34-46: Love & Who is David's Lord?

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. 35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" 37 Jesus replied, "'You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

41 Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: 42 "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They replied, "He is the son of David." 43 Jesus responded, "Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah 'my Lord'? For David said, 44 'Yahweh said to my Lord, Sit in the place of honour at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.' 45 Since David called the Messiah 'my Lord,' how can the Messiah be his son?"

46 No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Q.1. V.35 mentions 'an expert in religious law'. How might someone get a title like this?

Q.2. Why were the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus v.35?

Q.3. Think about the 10 commandments (Exodus 20). Which would you say is the most important? Why?

Q.4. Jesus answers the question of v.36 by pointing to two OT commands: Deut 6:5 (love God) and Lev 19:18 (love neighbour). How are these two related? See 1 John 3:16-18

Q.5. How are the three loves of v.37 related to each other?

Q.6. What might 'Love your neighbour' mean to the Pharisees? What did it mean to Jesus?

Q.7. How would you say the '*entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments*'?

Q.8. If you read the OT and were asked 'Whose son is the Messiah?' v.42, how would you answer?

Q.9. What does the phrase '*speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit*' v.43 suggest about the Psalms David wrote?

Q.10. What is the answer to Jesus' question v.44, '*if David called the Messiah 'my Lord,' how can the Messiah be his son?*'

Q.11. Speaking of the Messiah how is God going to *humble your enemies beneath your feet* v.44?

Application: for reflection, prayer and action

Q.11. If you had the opportunity, what question would you like to ask Jesus?

Q.12. What does 'loving God' mean for you each day?

Q.13. What does 'loving my neighbour' mean for you each day?

Matt 22:34-46 (my suggested answers)

NB. Please answer the questions yourself. We all have different ways of answering; God may give you greater insights than mine. Put '*John thinks*' ... before each answer.

A.1. These men were the learned scholars of the day. They studied the Scriptures together for many years, trying to understand God laws and how to apply them.

A.2. Jesus was popular, outspoken, and controversial? He flaunted their rules, rituals and ceremonies. When questioned he was very clever and rude to them (called them hypocrites) and he hung out with the sinners and tax-collectors.

A.3. Number 1 parallels the command to 'love God' so it is the most important.

A.4. Jesus implies that to love God must be placed alongside 'to love ones neighbour' because both are needed to be God's image bearers. To do one without doing the other would be to unbalance our lives and service. The two go together.

A.5. The 3 loves (heart, soul, mind) overlap each other and add a slightly different dimension to loving God. Heart (= affection, passion, will); Soul (= inner-self, personality, will); Mind (= attitudes, thoughts, intentions, will)

A.6. To the Pharisees it meant 'fellow Jews' and more particularly 'respectable, pious Jews'. To Jesus it meant 'anyone in need' or 'anyone who is a victim of prejudice or marginalisation'

A.7. Love is the summing up of the OT laws God gave, love is guided by them and love fulfills their intention.

A.8. If you read the OT 'whose son is the Messiah?' is obviously 'King David' but also 'the Son of God' 2 Sam 7:12ff and Ps 2.

A.9. The Psalms David wrote were his but also were inspired by God's Spirit who led David to write.

A.10. see A.8. – Jesus is both David's Son (through Joseph) and David's Lord (being the Messiah)

A.11. Your answer

A.12. Your answer

A.13. Your answer