

What Think Ye Of Christ?

Introduction: Matthew 22:42

1. Jesus had been asked many questions on this day.
 - a. Concerning taxation by the Pharisees and Herodians (vs. 15-17)
 - b. Concerning the resurrection by the Sadducees (vs. 23)
 - c. Concerning the greatest commandment by the Pharisees (vs. 34-36)
2. The goal of these questions was not to gain knowledge, but to entrap Jesus in His words.
3. After being questioned by dishonest pretenders, Jesus turned the tables by asking a question of them.
4. His purpose was not to entrap or deceive, but to give knowledge and correct error.
5. “What think ye of Christ?”
 - a. Contextually, Jesus was not asking about their view of Him – though He is the Christ (Messiah).
 - b. Instead, He wanted to know their understanding about the Messiah.
 - c. “Whose son is he?”
 - d. When they replied correctly that he was to be the son of David, Jesus responded with an important consideration.
 - e. How could the Messiah be both the son of David and David’s Lord?
 - f. They could not answer because they were unwilling to accept the truth about the Messiah.
 - h. He was both God and man!
6. By considering this same question, we can determine important truths about Jesus and about ourselves.
7. Let us honestly answer the question, “What think ye of Christ?”
 - I. The Importance of the Question
 - A. All actions are the result of one’s will.
 - B. A person’s will is influenced by one’s attitude, including emotions.
 - C. One’s attitude is determined by his or her knowledge.
 1. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7a).
 2. One’s thinking determines his attitude which guides his actions.
 - D. A person’s attitude toward Jesus is determined by what he or she thinks of Him.
 - E. Yet, the answer to this question is not given merely in words; rather, it is seen in the daily actions of one’s life.
 - F. Thus, one must recognize the importance of seeing the truth about Jesus (Rom. 10:17).
 - II. Three Answers to the Question
 - A. The answer of God: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).
 1. The identity of Jesus – the Son of God (therefore, deity)
 2. The nature of Jesus – well-pleasing (thus, sinless)
 3. There is no revealed knowledge of Jesus from the age of 12 until this moment when He is about 30 (cf. Luke 3:23).
 4. Yet, this statement tells all that needs to be known – He lived a life that pleased God.

5. He had not stood out among men but was fully known by God (John 1:26).
 6. There was no fault, failure, nor flaw in the life of Jesus.
 7. His sinless life enabled Him to be the Savior of man.
- B. The answer of a demon: “I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34).
1. Likewise, the demon acknowledged the sinless life of Jesus!
 2. Every temptation had been resisted (cf. Matthew 4:1ff).
 3. Thus, Satan had nothing in Jesus (John 14:30).
 4. His sinless life allowed Him to defeat utterly the enemy of man!
- C. The answer of a man: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).
1. Peter was a man like all others – weak yet striving for good.
 2. He had grown up hearing the promise and hope of the coming Messiah.
 3. He had followed Jesus and become intimately acquainted with Him for 3 years.
 4. Likewise, he saw the sinless life of the Messiah, the Son of God.

III. Three Results from the Question

- A. Indifference
- B. Acceptance -> Love -> Obedience
- C. Rejection -> Hatred -> Disobedience