

“Who Are You, Lord?”

Introduction:

1. Mt 22:41-46 – Jesus challenged the Pharisees on David’s description of the coming Messiah (Ps 110:1).
2. As noted previously, the road to fellowship with God eventually leads through Jesus. All men are **forced** to make one decision or another concerning His identity and authority. What do you think? “*Whose Son is He?*” God’s, or merely Mary and Joseph’s?

1. Jesus Is Lord

A. Credentials – When someone claims authority, we want to see their credentials. Jesus was “*declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead*” (Rom 1:4).

1. Jesus didn’t *look like* a Lord to Pontius Pilate, but when Thomas saw His resurrected body he exclaimed: “*My Lord and My God!*” (Jn 20:28).
2. Paul concentrated his full energies upon exterminating the apostate sect of Christianity until he met the resurrected Jesus (Ac 9:5-6): “*Who are You, Lord?*”
3. Without supernatural intervention, those who die *stay dead*. For God to intervene and suspend the effects of death affixes His “stamp of approval.” Thus when Jesus said,
 - a. “Your sins are forgiven you” – it was not blasphemy.
 - b. “Before Abraham was, I AM” – it was true.
 - c. “Destroy this temple ... I will raise it up” – He did!

B. What does the Bible declare about the Lordship of Jesus?

1. That He was raised and seated “*at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come*” (Eph 1:20-21). All authority in heaven and earth belongs to Him – Mt 28:18.
2. That religious authority resides in Him: “*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church ...*” (Eph 1:22).
3. That all things in the physical realm are under His control: Col 1:16-17.

- C. Jesus has absolute, complete authority over all as “*King of kings, Lord of lords*” (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 19:16). To be saved, each and every individual has to recognize and willingly submit to that rule. “*Whatever you do in word or deed...*” (Col 3:17).

2. Various Responses to the Lordship of Jesus

- A. Many recognize His rule but do not submit to His authority.
1. Mt 7:21-23 – These people *verbalize* Jesus’ Lordship and even work in His name. But their religious actions Jesus considers *lawlessness*. To truly *know* Jesus is to follow His teaching (7:23).
 2. Jesus puts it another way: “*Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?*” (Lk 6:46).
 3. Many serve Jesus with their own agenda. They do what they want to do and use His name to justify and validate their practices. We cannot use Jesus to suit our own purposes (cf. the sons of Sceva, Ac 19:13-16). **Illus:** Suppose a man buys a police uniform, blue light and ticket book and starts issuing his own citations and collecting fines. He will be arrested himself for acting without authority.
- B. Others may truly perceive the power and authority of Jesus but shrink from Him – Lk 5:1-8. Our own sinfulness and lack of inadequacy tends to make us shy away from God.
- C. Still others flatly deny and reject the Lordship of Jesus. God gives this right to man as a “free moral agent.” They do not want their lifestyles interfered with; they do not want to submit to anyone’s authority because they see themselves as sovereign.

3. Submitting to Jesus’ Lordship

- A. **All** will eventually confess the power, glory and Lordship of Jesus (Ph 2:9-11), but to do so on the other side of death will be too late. **Now** is the time to confess Him as Lord and commit to obeying Him.
- B. Jesus tells us up front what submitting to His rule entails; He makes no false promises; no “bait and switch.” Note who “*cannot be My disciple*” (Lk 14:25-33). Our service to Jesus may exact a heavy price. We must count the cost!
- C. In acknowledging Him as our Lord, we may likewise suffer. The suffering far outweighs the rewards – Rom 8:18.

Conclusion: Our generation has seen Castro, Pol Pot, Joseph Stalin, Hitler and others who have ruled to the harm of their people. Jesus rules for our good.