

Luke 20:41-47

³⁹Some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, You have spoken well!” ⁴⁰And they did not dare to question Him any further.

⁴¹Then Jesus declared, “How can it be said that the Christ is the Son of David? ⁴²For David himself says in the book of Psalms:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand
⁴³until I make Your enemies
a footstool for Your feet.”’

⁴⁴Thus David calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how can He be David’s son?”

⁴⁵In the hearing of all the people, Jesus said to His disciples, ⁴⁶“Beware of the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, and they love the greetings in the marketplaces, the chief seats in the synagogues, and the places of honour at banquets. ⁴⁷They defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive greater condemnation.”

Berean Study Bible

1

I can tough it out. Luke 20:41-47

Do not be afraid of tough questions. 20:41-44

Ask a question. 41 “How can it be?”

Pose a problem. 42-44 “So how can He be?”

Do not be afraid of trouble-makers. 20:45-47

Identify error. 45-47 “Beware of the scribes. They...”

Give a warning. 47 “will receive greater condemnation”

2

Smart questions, smarter answers. Luke 20:41-47

The right answer is Jesus. 20:41-44

Jesus is fully human. 41 “Son of David”

Jesus is fully Divine. 42 “my Lord”

The wrong answer is everything other than Jesus. 20:45-47

People are sinners. 45-47 “They like to...”
People are condemned. 47 “receive greater condemnation”

3

It’s not ‘what you know’, but ‘who you know’. Luke 20:41-47

I need to know Jesus. 20:41-44

Jesus is fully human to be my Saviour. 41 “the Christ is the Son of David”

Jesus is fully Divine to be my Master. 42 “Sit at My right hand”

I need to know myself. 20:45-47

Without Jesus, I will be myself. 45-47 “They like to...”

Without Jesus, I am condemned. 47 “receive greater condemnation”

4

Looking for our Leader. Luke 20:41-47

Our real leader. 20:41-44

Jesus is invited into Glory. 42 “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand”

Jesus is waiting for His return. 43 “until I make Your enemies a footstool”

Our fake leaders. 20:45-47

Beware of those who love the look. 45-46

Beware of those who talk the talk. 47a

5

There are some things I don’t think I will ever understand. Luke 20:41-47

God does not answer all my questions. 20:41-44

The Bible poses some tough questions. 41 “How can it be said”

The Bible provides paradoxical answers. 42-43 “in the book of Psalms”

The Bible promotes more questions than answers. 44 “So how can He be”

People cannot answer all my questions. 20:45-47

Some people think they are the answer. 45-46 “like to walk around”

Some people take more than they give. 47a “defraud widows of their houses”

Some people will get what they deserve. 47b “will receive greater condemnation”

Other possible titles

How good were the good old days?
Turn your religion into relationship
Get off God's throne
Defend your faith
The best defence is a good offence
Jesus does a SWOT Analysis
Question your beliefs
Answer the hard questions
Who is Jesus, and who cares?

Quotes and illustrations

Matthew and Luke are the two Gospels which tell the Christmas story of the human birth of Jesus as a human baby. It is interesting that these are also the same two Gospels which tell the human genealogy of Jesus as the human descendant of King David. Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38.

Even 'Blind Freddie' could see who Jesus was – Son of Man, and Son of God.

³⁵As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road, begging.

³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

³⁷"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him.

³⁸So he called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

³⁹Those who led the way admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had been brought near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want Me to do for you?"

"Lord," he said, "let me see again."

⁴²"Receive your sight!" Jesus replied. "Your faith has healed you." ⁴³Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people who saw this gave praise to God.

Luke 18:35-43, BSB

Commentary

¹After the king had settled into his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” ³And Nathan replied to the king, “Go and do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, ⁵“Go and tell My servant David that this is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build for Me a house to dwell in?

...The LORD declares to you that He Himself will establish a house for you. ¹²And when your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish His kingdom. ¹³He will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his Father, and He will be My son... 1 Samuel 7:1-17

¹The LORD said to my Lord:

“Sit at My right hand
until I make Your enemies
a footstool for Your feet.”

²The LORD extends Your mighty sceptre from Zion:

“Rule in the midst of Your enemies.”

³Your people shall be willing
on Your day of battle.

Arrayed in holy splendour, from the womb of the dawn,
to You belongs the dew of Your youth.

⁴The LORD has sworn

and will not change His mind:

“You are a priest forever
in the order of Melchizedek.”

⁵The Lord is at Your right hand;

He will crush kings in the day of His wrath.

⁶He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead;

He will crush the leaders far and wide.

⁷He will drink from the brook by the road;

Therefore, He will lift up His head. Psalm 110:1-7 BSB-UK (whole Psalm)

Verse 1 cited in Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42–43, Acts 2:34–35, & Hebrews 1:13

Verse 4 cited in Hebrews 5:6, Hebrews 7:17, and Hebrews 7:21

“Now if he is his Son, why does he call him his Lord? If he is his Lord, why do we call him his Son? They could not reconcile this seeming contradiction; thanks be to God, we can; that Christ, as God, was David’s Lord, but Christ as man, was David’s Son.” Matthew Henry

Fully God, and fully human:

In Christ, all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form. Colossians 2:9, BSB-UK

Parallel texts

Matthew 22:41-46	Mark 12:35-40	Luke 20:41-47
⁴¹While the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus questioned them: ⁴²“What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” “David’s,” they answered. ⁴³Jesus said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord’?” For he says: ⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.” ’ ⁴⁵So if David calls Him ‘Lord,’ how can He be David’s son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to answer a word, and from that day on no one dared to question Him any further.	³⁵While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, He asked, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?” ³⁶Speaking by the Holy Spirit, David himself declared: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.” ’ ³⁷David himself calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how can He be David’s son?” And the large crowd listened to Him with delight. ³⁸In His teaching Jesus also said,	⁴¹Then Jesus declared, “How can it be said that the Christ is the Son of David?” ⁴²For David himself says in the book of Psalms: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand ⁴³until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” ’ ⁴⁴Thus David calls Him ‘Lord.’ So how can He be David’s son?” ⁴⁵In the hearing of all the people, Jesus said to His disciples,

	“Watch out for the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, to receive greetings in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the chief seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. ⁴⁰They defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive greater condemnation.”	⁴⁶“Beware of the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes, and they love the greetings in the marketplaces, the chief seats in the synagogues, and the places of honour at banquets. ⁴⁷They defraud widows of their houses, and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will receive greater condemnation.”
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Music and songs

Songs about Jesus as King / Lord

All hail King Jesus, 237 / SiS 219
 Amazing love [You are my King], Ot 8
 King of Kings and Lord of Lords, SiS 409
 King of Love my Shepherd is, 86
 Servant King, 674
 Shepherd King, 726
 The King is coming, Ot 40
 The King of Love my Shepherd is, 86
 The splendour of the King, How great is our God, 1020

Songs about money / wealth / stewardship

Chasing after this world... Live with abandon, Ot 36
 He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, 12
 In the stars... He's everything to me, Ot 22
 I'd rather have Jesus than silver and gold,
 Lord, You are more precious than silver,
 Matthew 6:24 + Success “No one can serve two masters”
 My worth is not in what I own... At the cross (Getty)
 No eye has seen... How high and how wide, Ot 52
 You are my hiding place... I will trust in You

Songs about Psalm 110:1

Songs about Son of Man, and Son of God
This Kingdom

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Suggest some reasons why the Bible does not give simple answers to all our questions.
 2. Jesus said to beware of those who had Bible answers (v46). What is today's version of them, and why should we beware of them?
 3. Jesus is "the Son of David" (v41). What does that mean, and why is it significant for me today?
 4. Jesus is on Heaven's throne (v42). What are some benefits of Him being in Heaven instead of on Earth?
 5. Those who have the most Bible knowledge (v46a) receive the greatest condemnation (v47b). How can that be fair?
 6. On what basis should people receive greater, or lesser, condemnation?
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