



After a lengthy day of answering the questions of the Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus asks the question of the day, if not the ages. Who is the Messiah?

For the Jews who looked on, the word Messiah was a word that brought about grand ideas of hope, a future and freedom. But even though the Jews had a big idea of who the Messiah was, it was not big enough. The Messiah was not simply going to release them from Rome; he was going to release them from sin, satan and death.

And as the one who would release them from not just their physical, but spiritual captures, Jesus would call his people to be his representatives until he returned. Asking his followers to not follow in the footsteps of the prideful religious leaders, but of the humble, servant Savior.

Jesus :: David's Son. David's Lord (vv.35-37)

READ VERSES 35-37

1. What are some of the misconceptions or false understandings you've previously held about Jesus?
2. What are some of the misunderstandings of Jesus that are most prevalent in our culture? Practice offering humble, biblical answers to these common rejections of Jesus as a group.
3. What hope do you find in Jesus being 100% man? What hope do you find in Jesus being 100% God? How might you explain this aspect of Jesus' identity to an unbeliever?
4. Why do you think it is vital that we start with Jesus as the core of Christian Theology? Why wouldn't you want to start with other aspects of theology first? What might happen if this is done out of order?
5. What are some of Jesus' words that you delight in most? Read or recite them to the group and let them know why they mean so much to you.
6. Jesus sought to clear up the understanding the Scribes had of the Messiah. Are there any areas of Christian doctrine that you find confusing, unclear? How can you as a group help bring clarity to this issue?

THE SCRIBES :: PRIDE (v. 38-39)

READ VERSES 38-39

1. What are some of the ways we can easily appear to be externally religious in our culture?
2. What makes pride such a difficult sin to fight? How have you had victory over this in your life?
3. Pride and self-interest puts us at the center of our thoughts, desires, time, money, and schedule. Which of these areas (it can definitely be more than one) do you feel is consumed with the interest of self, rather than the interest of others?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-11. Which phrases in this passage grab you? What comfort do you find in the example Christ set for you?
5. Followers of Christ are to be marked by humility. What does humility look like in our offices, homes, neighborhoods and culture?

THE SCRIBES :: HYPOCRISY (v. 40)

READ VERSE 40

1. We will define hypocrisy as appearing to be near God through external actions, while in actuality being far from him in heart.
2. In light of this definition: And knowing that confession of sin brings healing (James 5:16), what aspects of your walk with Jesus may be more show than substance? What areas of life are you making appear healthier than they really are?
3. Is there a time in your life when you were called a hypocrite? Do you mind sharing with the group how this made you feel? What changed in light of this event?
4. How does being found out as a hypocrite bring assault to your witness as a Christian? How does confession ironically bring strength to your claim of following Jesus?
5. Are there any people in your life that you need to ask forgiveness of, for failing to be Christ to them and their situation?
6. What about the truth that Christ died for hypocrites brings you comfort and hope? What is it about the radicality of Christ's love that blows you away the most?