

# Luke 20:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, How say they that Christ is David's son?

## Analysis

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**And he said unto them, How say they that Christ is David's son?** (Εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Πῶς λέγουσιν τὸν Χριστὸν εἶναι Δαυὶδ υἱόν; Eipen de pros autous, Pōs legousin ton Christon einai Dauid huion?)—After silencing opponents, Jesus takes offense with His own question. Pōs (how?) challenges conventional Messianic understanding. **Christ** (Χριστόν, Christon), Greek for 'Anointed One' (Hebrew Mashiach/Messiah), was universally understood as **David's son** (Δαυὶδ υἱόν) based on 2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5.

Jesus isn't denying Messianic Davidic descent—Matthew and Luke trace His genealogy through David. Rather, He's exposing incomplete Christology. If Messiah is merely David's son (i.e., descendant), how can David call Him 'Lord'? This riddle points to Messiah's dual nature: fully human (David's son) and fully divine (David's Lord). The religious leaders understood Messiah's humanity but missed His deity—a blindness that led them to crucify the Lord of glory.

## Historical Context

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Messianic expectation focused on earthly, political restoration of Davidic kingdom. Most Jews anticipated a human warrior-king who would defeat Rome. Jesus's question challenges this reductionist view, preparing for the revelation that Messiah must first suffer (Isaiah 53) before reigning (Revelation 19-20). Early church christological debates (Councils of Nicaea, Chalcedon) wrestled with this mystery of Christ's two natures.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How can Messiah be both David's son (subordinate descendant) and David's Lord (superior deity)?
2. What incomplete or reductionist views of Jesus persist today, emphasizing His humanity while minimizing His divinity, or vice versa?
3. How does Jesus's question model using Scripture to challenge inadequate theological formulations?

## Interlinear Text

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Εἶπεν	δὲ	πρὸς	αὐτούς	Πῶς	λέγουσιν	τὸν	Χριστὸν
he said	And	unto	them	How	say	G3588	they that Christ
G2036	G1161	G4314	G846	G4459	G3004		G5547
υἱόν	Δαβὶδ	εἶναι					
son	David's	is					
G5207	G1138	G1511					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 1:1** (References Christ): The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**Acts 2:30** (References Christ): Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

**John 7:42** (References Christ): Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

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