

Matthew 22:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

Analysis

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them (Συνηγμένων δὲ τῶν Φαρισαίων ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτοὺς ὁ Ἰησοῦς/Synēgmenōn de tōn Pharisaiōn epērōtēsen autous ho Iēsous). After answering their hostile questions (tribute to Caesar, resurrection, greatest commandment), Jesus seizes initiative and poses His own question. The genitive absolute construction **while gathered together** indicates they're still assembled in council, plotting against Him. Now Jesus becomes interrogator, exposing the fatal flaw in their messianic theology.

The shift from defensive to offensive reveals Jesus's sovereign control of the dialogue. He's not merely responding to attacks but directing the entire encounter toward its ultimate issue—His identity. All previous questions (taxation, resurrection, law) were deflections from the central question: Who is the Messiah? Jesus forces them to confront this directly. Their inability to answer (verse 46) demonstrates that all their theological expertise and hostile questioning amounts to nothing when faced with Christ's person. The question He poses—reconciling Messiah's Davidic sonship with David calling Him Lord—can only be answered by recognizing the incarnation: Messiah is both David's son (human descendant) and David's Lord (divine Son of God).

Historical Context

This exchange occurred in the temple courts during Passion Week, likely Tuesday afternoon after Jesus had already silenced Sadducees (resurrection question) and

answered a Pharisaic lawyer (greatest commandment). The Pharisees remained gathered, perhaps plotting their next attack, when Jesus confronted them directly. His question about Messiah's identity cuts to the heart of Jewish hope and expectation. All parties agreed Messiah would come from David's lineage (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 11:1), but they conceived Him as merely human king who would restore Israel's political independence and Davidic dynasty. Jesus's question from Psalm 110:1 exposes this inadequate Christology—if Messiah is merely David's descendant, how can David call Him 'Lord'?

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's question shift the entire debate from peripheral issues (taxes, resurrection, law) to the central issue of His identity?
2. What does the Pharisees' inability to answer Jesus's question reveal about the limits of theological knowledge without spiritual revelation?
3. How does Psalm 110:1 prove that Messiah must be both human (David's son) and divine (David's Lord)?

Interlinear Text

Συνηγμένων	δὲ	τῶν	Φαρισαίων	ἐπηρώτησεν	αὐτοὺς
were gathered together	While		the Pharisees	asked	them
G4863	G1161		G5330	G1905	G846
ὁ	Ἰησοῦς				
G3588	Jesus				
	G2424				