

Whose Son Is the Christ?—[Mark 12:35–40](#)

Topics:

Authority, Holy Spirit, Honor, Jesus Christ, Pride, Punishment, Self-centeredness, Self-righteousness, Status, Teaching

Open It

1. How would you describe a good teacher?
2. What good teachers (whether school teachers, Sunday School teachers, pastors, parents, or others) have influenced you? How?
3. *If you wanted to be noticed for being an especially good worker at your job, how would you go about doing it?

Explore It

1. Where was Jesus teaching? ([12:35](#))
2. What question did Jesus ask of His audience? ([12:35](#))
3. What was significant about the passage Jesus quoted? ([12:36](#))
4. In what way was the Holy Spirit involved in this account? ([12:36](#))
5. What did Jesus point out from one of David's psalms? ([12:36–37](#))
6. To whom was David referring in the Scripture Jesus quoted? ([12:36](#))

7. What point was Jesus making by quoting David's words? ([12:36](#))
8. How did the crowd respond to Jesus' teaching? ([12:37](#))
9. How are the two parts of Jesus' teaching in this passage related? ([12:35–40](#))
10. About whom did Jesus warn the crowds? ([12:38](#))
11. *Why did Jesus condemn the teachers of the law? ([12:38–39](#))
12. *What did the teachers of the law betray about themselves through their actions? ([12:38–39](#))
13. How did the teachers of the law "devour widow's houses"? ([12:40](#))
14. For what did Jesus condemn the teachers of the law? ([12:40](#))
15. *What did Jesus say would happen to the teachers of the law? ([12:40](#))

Get It

1. What difference does it make to you to know that the biblical writers were "speaking by the Holy Spirit" when they wrote the Scriptures?
2. What can you learn about the power and authority of the Messiah from Jesus' teaching in this passage?

3. *What do Christians do that is like the actions of the teachers of the law described in this passage (such as walking around in flowing robes, being greeted in the marketplace, having the most important seats at the synagogues and places of honor at banquets)?
4. How do we let pride and self-seeking attitudes interfere with our Christian witness?
5. What is one specific way that you have let pride into your life?
6. *What can we do to avoid being showy about our faith?
7. Who are the less fortunate people in our society who are vulnerable to exploitation, as were the widows in New Testament times?
8. What can churches do to guard against taking advantage of vulnerable people?
9. What specifically has the Lord convicted you of through Jesus' teaching in this passage?

Apply It

1. *What step can you take this week to pray, go to church, and do other spiritual devotions only out of a desire to please God?
2. What small act of kindness could you show to a less fortunate believer in your church this week?