

Missed It By That Much

(Mark 12:35-37)

(preached 10/4/15; Sunday AM)

Introduction

I am not a huge fan of flying, but planes fascinate me.

I love to watch them take off and land.

When we were in California, we would often eat at a restaurant that was right beside LAX where planes would literally land right over your head.

It was incredible to see, hear and even feel these monstrous planes coming in close enough where you could almost throw a rock and hit them.

Whenever we came home to visit from seminary, we always went the cheapest route..

And often times that meant more than one stop, and there was always a fear that we would catch a connecting flight and the plane would have propellers..

I don't know why folks are frightened by those planes.

Maybe it is the old look of them, but people always complain about prop planes...

We never got one of those, but the first commercial airplanes all had propellers..

In fact, it wasn't until the early 50s that jet airliners were introduced for commercial purposes...

The Boeing 707 and the Douglas DC-8 were some of the first commercial jetliners.

However, the plane that you see on the screen, - the de Havilland 106 Comet was the very first production commercial jet liner.

As you can see, it was a masterpiece of design.

Just looking at it, you understand how advanced it was for its time.

In fact, you could see something like this in the air even in 2015.

That first jetliner had room for 36 passenger seats and a flight crew of 4 people, and it took its first official flight with paying passengers on May 2, 1952.

And air travel would never be the same.

Yet, the de Havilland 106 Comet was not without problems.

Because on May 2, 1953 (exactly one year after its first official flight), disaster struck.

A Comet taking off in India crashed into a valley only minutes into the flight and killed all 43 people on board.

Though the accident occurred during a thunderstorm, witnesses told investigators that the wings simply fell off the plane and it crashed.

After the investigation, some changes were made.

The controls of the aircraft, weather radar was added to the aircraft, and pilots were told to fly at lower speeds in storms..

And with that, the jetliner began flying again.

However, only 8 months later, a second Comet disaster occurred.

This time, a Comet fell apart in the sky over the Mediterranean Sea, and none of the 35 passengers survived.

An investigation occurred and changes were made, but in April of the same year (only 3 months later) another plane fell apart in mid-air and 21 people died.

This time, all the planes were grounded until a reason for the crashes could be found.

After 6 months later, investigators found the problem..

Square windows were used on the plane.

Here is a picture of part of one of those planes that found on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea.

And you will notice that the plane broke apart at the corner of the window.

The problem is as simple as it sounds...

Square windows created weak areas because they had 4 corners, and corners are areas of weakness.

The planes were redesigned with circular windows, and to this day, pressurized jetliners all have circular or oval windows...

To prevent the problem of possibly falling apart in mid air.

Now, that is a long story and you didn't come to hear the history or airplanes..

But I share it for one very important reason....

And here it is...

One small problem..

One tiny that you get wrong can lead to disaster.

Square window were put on those planes and 3 fell apart in mid air and 99 people died.

One small design flaw and it creates a big problem..

This is also true when it comes to being truly saved...

Miss one tiny part of what it means to be a Christian..

And your salvation all falls to pieces..

Get one thing wrong about what you believe to be true about being saved and the whole direction of your life after death is changed...

And what is that one part that is so important for us to see today?

It is the one tiny part of who Jesus Christ actually is.

Who is Jesus Christ to you?

How would you describe him to someone else?

What words would you choose to use in describing Him?

Where would you base your description of Him?

Because salvation rises and falls with your view of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How you view Him determines where you will spend the rest of your life beyond this world...

And let's face it....

Your time on earth is shorter than a snap of the finger compared to your eternity..

Even 100 years on earth is a drop of water in the ocean compared to where you will be forever.

But if you don't get the person of Jesus right in this drop of water that we call our life....

There will no opportunity to change your mind in the ocean called forever...

You must have the right view of Jesus to be right with God..

If you get Jesus wrong, you get everything else wrong....

That is why those people who knock on your door and invite you to their Kingdom Hall right down the road are not saved.

They may be nice people...

They may look like Christians..

They may do nice things...

They may very good neighbors...

But Jehovah's Witnesses are wrong about who Jesus is...

And it doesn't matter how good that plane looked, it crashed because the design of the windows was wrong...

And Jehovah Witnesses will crash because they are wrong about who Jesus is...

Those nice young men who knock on your door with their white shirts and ties and clean shaven faces and good manners...

Who are wearing name badges that identify them as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...

And who hold the Bible in one hand and the book of Mormon in the other hand....

And who look the part and say the right things and have good morals and probably even agree with you politically...

Those nice men may look like a real Christian and they will even call themselves Christians, but they will crash just like that Comet airplane because they don't have the right view of who Jesus is.

Those conservative Muslims who some say pastors and Christians say worship the same God as Christians...

Who give money to poor and fast and pray...

Who look like good people will fall apart in the end unless the right view of who Jesus is before they die.

The same for Buddhists and Hindus and atheists and agnostics....

And every false religion that is out there...

Anyone who doesn't have the exact right view of who Jesus Christ is...

Even though their religion may look like a perfectly good religion...

It will fall apart in the end because of one flaw...

They all have a wrong view of who Jesus Christ is.

I pray that you will not be true of anyone in here today...

Because today in Mark 12:35 - 37, Jesus is going to set the record on exactly Who He is.

So, let's look at this very short section that contain a very big truth this morning in two parts...

In verse 35, we will see...

I. A Final Question of Compassion (35)

And then in verses 36-37, we will see...

II. A Biblical Answer of Truth (36-37)

Let's read verse 35...

I. A Final Question of Compassion (35)

35 And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that [r]the Christ is the son of David?

Let's set the scene really quick...

Jesus is in the temple on Wednesday.

It is Passover Week in Jerusalem, and the temple would be filled with people...

None of the crowds have any idea at this point that Jesus is going to be crucified on Friday.

But He knows.

In fact, He is the only one who knows that even though it is just two days away...

Yet, in spite of that, Jesus is not hiding out in some cave worried about the pain and torture and death that is approaching...

He is out teaching the crowds that have come to Jerusalem for the Passover.

The city is wall to wall Jews and Jesus has used this opportunity to continue to teach them.

Jesus is filled with compassion even for people who will be calling for his death in just a few hours..

And Jesus is even filled with compassion for those who seek to kill him..

Though Jesus has destroyed the false religion of the Jewish leadership...

And though He has pointed out their inaccurate view of the Scriptures...

And though, HE has exposed their system of greed in how they run the temple...

Jesus still has compassion for the people under that system and even for the men who lead that system...

Last week, we met a scribe who came to Jesus with a question.

This scribe was a lawyer and a Pharisee according to Matthew and he wanted Jesus to tell him which commandment of the Jewish law was the greatest.

We learned last week that the Jews had 613 different commandments that they were told to keep...

And this scribe was sent by the Pharisees to ask Jesus which one was the greatest of the 613...

The religious leaders were hoping that Jesus would contradict the OT with his answer....

But Jesus did not do that...

He simply said that the greatest commandment was to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The second was to love your neighbor as yourself...

And after hearing the answer, the scribe agreed with Jesus, and Jesus then told him....

“You have answered intelligently. You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

And that response from Jesus was both a compliment and a warning..

You are close to being saved, but close doesn't count.

You need to move beyond intelligence to repentance and faith in Me.

And that is where the conversation ended...

And that is a sad picture in many ways...

You know enough to be saved, but you aren't saved...

What kept that scribe from coming into the kingdom?

Well, his heart was seeing the need to repent..

He was beginning to understand that God doesn't desire external offerings and sacrifices..

You can see that in the last words of verse 33 above..

God wants your inward heart above all the outward actions you can do for Him...

So, I would propose that the scribes heart was beginning to understand the need of repentance...

He needed to turn from his sins not try to cover them up with sacrifices and burnt offerings..

God desires obedience over sacrifice...

And this scribe is beginning to see that...

But along with repentance, you need to believe in the person of Jesus Christ in order to be saved...

Repentance alone will not save a person.

They also need to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ...

And what does that mean?

Well that means that you need to affirm that Jesus Christ is real.

He isn't a made up person in history.

He really walked the earth.

He really performed supernatural miracles.

He really existed, and He is exactly like what the Bible describes him as.

You need to believe in his sinless life.

That He was born of a virgin.

That He never sinned.

That He perfectly obeyed God's law found in His Word.

You need to believe that he died on a cross in your place as your substitute to take on the penalty of your sin.

You need to believe that He was resurrected from the dead.

And that he ascended from this earth back to heaven.

Saving belief in Jesus Christ means that you believe all the biblical truths about him and that you are willing to risk your entire future by placing your faith in Who He is....

And your Savior from sin and the Lord of your life...

But that is where the scribes and the religious leaders and even most of crowd would have a problem with Jesus.

They didn't see him as a Savior and Lord.

For the Jews, the idea of a Messiah, -which is Who Jesus was warped by their misunderstanding of the Scriptures...

They simply saw Messiah as a man who would be sent by God to wipe out their enemies and bring in an era of peace for the Jews.

As they looked at the OT, they had the idea of Messiah as a son of David who would be sent by God to make way for their prosperity as a nation.

He was be a son of David just like Solomon and just like David's other sons.

Now, it is true that the OT taught that...

We don't have time to go into all these verses that tech that, but there are a number of them..

2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89; verses in Amos, Micah, and Ezekiel and others teach that Messiah will be a physical descendant of David.

In one sense, he will be a son of David just like John Andrew is my son.

Or that I am a son of Joe Moss, who was my grandfather..

In that picture of who Messiah was going to be, the Jews were correct in looking for a Messiah who would be David's physical descendant.

And this was why detailed records of the the Jews family trees were kept..

If a Jew ever came claiming to be that promised Messiah, it would need to be verified that he was in David's family tree..

In that regard, Jesus was certainly a candidate for Messiah..

He was clearly a descendant of David...

But when Jesus asks this question...

The sense of what Jesus is asking is this..

Why do the scribes simply teach that the Christ,- which is another word for the Messiah, why do the scribes teach that He is simply a son of David?

You see, the scribes were missing a small bit of information in their view of who Messiah would be..

Not only would Messiah be a son of David, he would also be the Lord of David as well...

Before we get into how Jesus proves this...

I want to look at this question as a question of mercy...

Jesus has just interacted with this scribe, and He has just witnessed how close this man is to God's Kingdom...

He is beginning to see the need to turn to God in his heart, but there is also another big obstacle to being saved...

And it is this...

He doesn't have the right view of who Jesus is...

For this scribe and all the other scribes, they could never be saved until they had the right view of Jesus.

And though they knew that Jesus was David's son, they would be unwilling to acknowledge that Jesus was also David's Lord.

Simply put, they rejected the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh.

And there is no salvation until you get the right view of who Jesus truly is....

So Jesus asks the question of our mercy here almost as an invitation...

You are close to the kingdom, but you need to rethink your view of Messiah...

The Messiah will not be simply a man, he will also the Lord of every man...

And until you get that right, you are outside the kingdom..

That is why the best response to the Mormon at your door or the Jehovah's Witness is to take them to the person of Jesus Christ.

And to tell them in love that they are outside the kingdom of God until they have a biblical view of exactly who Jesus is.

He is not a created being.

He is not a little g god as the Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons teach.

He is not the spirit brother of Satan as the Mormons teach.

He is not simply a good prophet as the Muslims teach.

He is not simply a nice teacher as the Buddhists and Hindus teach.

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh.

And until you acknowledge that Jesus is God, you will stand outside the kingdom of God.

It is that simple.

They can take all their complex arguments and throw them outside the window.

They can take all their works of going door to door and praying and serving the poor and helping others and stack them to heaven...

But they will not unlock the kingdom of God until they confess Jesus as God.

And we should pray for the people trapped in false religions working their fingers to the bone trying to please God...

And we should show compassion to them when they knock on our doors...

They need the good news that Jesus is God who died for their sins...

But there is no need to talk them beyond the point of calling them to a proper and complete and biblical view of who Jesus is...

If they don't see him as God, the Bible doesn't see them as saved.

And Jesus know that as he looks at this scribe, and he offers this question possibly hoping that the scribe will re-examine his view of Messiah...

And begin to understand that he not only needs to repent but he also needs to turn in faith and believe that Jesus is God in the flesh...

The Messiah that the scribe has studied about in the OT was right before his eyes...

And Jesus asks a question to help him correct his view of Messiah and to open his eyes to the fact that the Messiah was right in front of Him...

But he doesn't just ask the question in hopes that the scribes will open the Scriptures and get a better view of the Messiah...

Now, it goes without saying that Jesus had already claimed to be Messiah.

He had taught that he and the Father were One...

That when you saw Him, you saw the Father...

And so all of this is simply an invitation for the crowds and for the scribes to correct their view of Jesus as well...

He claimed to be Messiah because He was
Messiah...

And so, they all knew that he was David's Son, but
what they could never accept is that he was also
David's Lord...

Therefore, Jesus is going to help them see that
Messiah is more than a physical son of David, he is
also the God of David.

And to do this, Jesus does what we all should do
when trying to teach about God...

He takes the crowd to the Scriptures...

He is going to answer his own question with the
Word of God...

Now remember, Jesus has basically asked...

Why does everyone believe that Messiah will JUST
be a physical descendant of David...

So, let's move to...

II. A Biblical Answer of Truth (36-37)

Let's read verses 36-37...

***36 David himself said [s]in the Holy Spirit,
'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet."
37 David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what
sense is He his son?"***

Jesus takes the crowd to Psalm 110...

Now, here is the short version of what you need to know about Psalm 110....

Every Jew who ever went to synagogue knew that Psalm 110 was a description of the Messiah who God had promised to send to them...

There were other passages like this that most Jews called Messianic passages...

It would be similar to to someone who says, "where can I turn if I want to understand something about the culture of the South?"

Most people would say get a copy of the magazine “Southern Living” and begin reading.

If you want to know something about the value of your car?

You get a Kelly Blue Book.

If Jews wanted to know what Messiah would be like, they had passages in the OT that they would turn to find out...

And Psalm 110 was one of those messianic passages..

And so Jesus takes the crowd there...

He has just asked this question...

Why do y'all think that the Messiah is simply a son (with a small s) of David?

And so he takes them to Psalm 110?

And guess who wrote Psalm 110 under the inspiration of God through the Holy Spirit...

David wrote what God told him to write about the coming Messiah...

And here is what he wrote in Psalm 110..

***‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet.”’***

And Jesus’ answer to his question is this...

If the Messiah is simply David’s son with a little s..

If he is only a physical descendant of David, why in the world would David call him Lord?

Why didn’t David just write “The LORD said to my son...”

If the Messiah is just a son of David, it would have been unheard of for David to call him Lord...

IF he was just a son, David would simply call him his son...

And here you have the truth that Jesus is trying to teach to the scribes and the crowd and to every person living in a false religion...

Jesus is not just a man.

He is God.

Yes, Jesus was David's physical descendant, but he was also David's God and Lord.

David's son is also David's Savior.

David's lad was also David's Lord.

David's descendent was also David's Deliverer.

This man in the temple that day was not just a man, he was Messiah...

And he is desperately and compassionately teaching that truth to the very end of his life...

In hopes that some may change their way of thinking about who Messiah is and repent and believe in Him...

Yet, those hopes were slim...

Conclusion

Look at the final line of verse 37...

And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

If this weren't so sad, we could almost laugh at what Mark wrote here...

The crowds enjoyed listening to Him...

What a sad reminder of the hardness of people's hearts...

You say this isn't a sad reminder..

This is good news that people were happily listening to him...

No, it isn't.

Because this crowd isn't happy in the sense of they see Jesus for who he truly is...

They are simply happy because they like to be entertained...

Many unbelievers come to church just to hear the preaching...

They like to be around people; they like to sing.

They like the setting, and they simply enjoy hearing a message...

I have never quite understood that either, but I have heard numerous stories of folks who admitted that they weren't Christians and never missed a Sunday..

And we see that here in this fickle crowd.

They are happy today but they will want him hung on a cross very shortly...

But you also see their unbelief in how they responded to what Jesus has just taught..

He is teaching the crowd that Messiah is not just a man but that He is in fact God.

If the crowd had truly understood what he just said, there is but one reaction to being in the presence of the Lord...

And that is to fall in worship of Him...

The crowds were happy and enjoying the sermon, but they should have been on their faces in worship of the Lord who was standing before them.

Jesus is God, and the proper response to Him is not saying that is a good sermon...

It is repenting of your sin, believing upon Christ, and going out and serving and obeying Him with your entire life.

Anything less than that is simply a false religion...

And false religions may look like a plane but they fall apart when it matters most...

Let us pray.