

The Gospel reading comes on Holy Tuesday, 2 days after Jesus' triumphal Palm Sunday entry. The leaders outraged Jesus received the praise of men as the promised Christ, so they confront Him with questions to trap Him. They aren't trying to win a Bible trivia game. What you heard was the last of 3.

This also the last public teaching of Jesus. His last public words before the cross. From here forward, it will be with private groups. Last public sermon, it's noteworthy. What does He preach? About faith, love; and confessing the Christ. The 1st trap question about taxes, if it's lawful to pay Caesar. The 2nd about marriage and the resurrection. Jesus confounds them with Scripture.

Then 3rd question, **which is the great commandment?** Jesus again confounds them, quoting 2 OT passages, perfect summary of the law. **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** What is the Lord's will for my life? Love the Lord and my neighbor. It's that simple.

And impossible. Repent, for such little effort and care to live truly Christian. For which one of us can say that we've even come close to loved the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind? Which of us has loved all our neighbors as you should? Which of you have loved your family the way you should? God requires perfection, you don't get credit for trying. And even the times you did act Christian, do not think it impresses God or earns anything.

But Jesus isn't finished. **What do you think about the Christ?** They respond with Scripture, **The son of David**, a descendant of David, yes. He gives more Scripture and asks, **If then David calls him Lord, how is He his son?** They've nothing to say or dare ask. Why? Jesus is speaking of the most important piece of theology this world has ever known and its throughout Scripture.

The Christ will be born of David's line, a man. And He'll be David's Lord. 100% God, eternal; 100% man, born of women, in 1 person. He pre-exists David and created David. And this teaching is the very heart of the Christian confession. Who is Jesus? It exposes errors and false teaching. We rejoice this morning to be given this answer by the Lord Himself.

So our Lord's last words to the Pharisees, to the temple, to His enemies, to the crowds, is word of His two natures, word they reject. Who is Jesus? And sadly, you know people, still rejected to this day.

But what does this mean for you? That we rightly confess Jesus? Many speak of Jesus and it's lies or distorted. And many don't think about His 2 natures that is why people are scandalized or confused if you tell someone: 'I worship a man' and also rightly "My God hung dead on a cross." You cannot separate the man and God in the person of Jesus. And it confuses people further when you talk about Jesus in Genesis and showing up in the OT, but He's there. Why doctrine, the Sacraments matter, we must rightly confess Jesus.

Who is Jesus? The world and churches paint a picture of him of their own imagination sprinkled with a few words of Scripture, that He agrees with all sorts of things, who agrees with them and whatever lifestyle they choose, a Jesus who certainly wouldn't be upset and understand choices people make. -this can even be true for us, shame on us.

Who is Jesus? Look at those commandments. Love God. Love neighbor. Would people you go to school with, work with, interact, -be surprised to learn you're Christian? How do you confess Christ before the world, in your home? How do you confess Christ in your marriage, among family, friends. So often we rather want the respect of men and my way, and deny Him with our actions. Lord forgive us and work in us acts of love.

Who is Jesus? Confessed by how we love God and neighbor. Think about this analogy, if my wife says she loves me, and spends almost no time at home, doesn't make it a priority to spend time with me, doesn't want to come by and hear what I have to say, doesn't listen to me, doesn't come to receive care I want to give her, carries on in her life, plenty of reasons why she can't come home, just checking in time to time, does she really love me?

See the point, to say you love God, you are here, where He is, in His house, receiving His Word and gifts and joined to Him in this marriage feast.

Why you are here? We all have different motivations for being here and some are bad. Pastor Burgdorf's the worse, he's paid to be here. Of course he has other motivations. Maybe you're here out of guilt if you don't, perhaps out of habit, maybe you are here in hopes God will offer you more favors and not let bad things happen, maybe because you're lonely, maybe you were dragged here, maybe you would rather be someone else, maybe you had nothing else to do. Here is the significant things, you are here and Jesus is here. To say God is everywhere does not mean He doesn't locate Himself in a place, a place to give you His gifts, even join Himself to you. Whatever reason you've for coming today, the real reason in the end is God led you here. Your presence is of cosmic significance. The angels see you receive the Lord's gifts and rejoice. Even more we're joined together with the saints and our loved ones in this feast; even more, God has made a promise to you in your baptism. He claimed you, put His name on you. You are His precious child that He wants here. He is not here to judge you. He is here to heal you, restore you, bind your wounds, enrich you, to love and forgive you.

Who is Jesus? Love, faith, confessing the Christ starts here, given here as in no other way on the planet, yes and then you have work to do, but your work is a privilege, opportunity, a gift, a freedom because the commandments demands have been answered in Christ. Pray, In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place. May glorify Thy lavish grace. And help and serve my neighbor. Let no false doctrine me beguile; And Satan not my soul defile. Give strength and patience unto me. To bear my cross and follow Thee.