

A Teachable Spirit

"Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. Later Jesus asked them a question: 'What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?' They say unto him, 'The Son of David.' He saith unto them, 'How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?'" Matthew 22:41-45

Jesus asks an insightful question: "If Messiah is the son of King David, then why does David call him Lord?" I would have thought that a Pharisee would have responded, "Jesus, you raise a question I never before considered; why would King David call him Lord?" Instead, Matthew notes, "And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions."¹

You ask questions for a number of reasons. One is to learn; you have a teachable spirit and want to know more about the topic being considered. Another is to embarrass the other person and make him look bad. The Pharisees evidently had this attitude when they approached Jesus. They were not trying to learn from the Savior, but rather sought to "entangle" Him. In their hearts they had already judged Him, and were not interested in learning from Him. Thus, when Jesus asked them a question they really did not want to understand Scripture, and ended being the ones embarrassed.

Obviously, God wants you to have a teachable spirit. For this reason, you ask questions because you want to know more about the topic being considered. Asking is preferable to telling. Seeking to understand is better than accusing. One of the marks of old age is the lack of a teachable heart. If you are not teachable now, you probably will not be as you grow old. Pray that God will keep your heart from becoming calcified, otherwise you may end standing before Him in Judgment unable to answer the questions He asks you!

¹ Matthew 22:46