

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David?" ³⁶ David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" ³⁷ David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" The large crowd listened to him with delight. ³⁸ As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

The debate between Jesus and the religious leaders at the Temple has been a disaster for the religious elite. They have been confounded by Jesus' answers to all their attempts to discredit him. Now Jesus applies the *coup de grace*. If the expected Messiah is not divine as well as human, why does David refer to him as his Lord? The crowd watching these gladiators in theological combat is delighted by the victory of the apparent underdog. Jesus then turns to the crowd and warns them against the danger of the empty theology they were being given.

Theology literally means the study of God. The subject of theology is then God and not man. When our theology is centered on humankind and our needs, desires and understanding, it will necessarily be without ultimate meaning. The religious leaders of Jesus' time were looking for a human king who would deliver them from the occupation of the Romans, while endorsing their way of life. God's plan was to deliver them from their sinful way of life, in spite of the political situation.

Jesus is always pointing us toward the divine and the perfect will of God. As his disciples, our goal is to do likewise, and not to aspire to be a better human being than our neighbor.

Father, through your Holy Spirit take my mind and transform it into an instrument of your reality and your truth. Form my thoughts into your thoughts and my words and actions into vehicles for your truth. May I reveal your way with all my life. Amen.