The Final Question

MATTHEW 22:41-46; 23:1-12

Man is never sufficiently touched and affected by the awareness of his lowly state until he has compared himself with God's majesty. -John Calvin

I. Exalting the Christ

II. Exposing their Failure

Into the Bible

 Jesus warned both the multitudes and his disciples about accepting the authority claimed by the Pharisees. Compare their approach to obedience in verse 4 with what Jesus asks of us instead. (Matthew 11:28-30.) Does Jesus' alternative release us from the need to labor in God's service?

2. In verses 41-46 Jesus shuts down the Pharisees with a question of his own. The passage he cites from the Psalms establishes the Messiah as being both the Son of David and David's sovereign Lord. That makes no sense to the Pharisees. How does the incarnation of Christ provide the necessary answer to this prophetic conundrum? (Mark 8:31, Romans 1:4)

Application

3. The Pharisees were all about meticulous service to God, but Jesus exposes their diligence as hypocritical. He accused them of being after man's approval in their "righteous" activities. No doubt Paul, as an ex-Pharisee had this in mind when he wrote to the church in Colossi. (Colossians 3:22.) How does Jesus advise us to avoid their tendency in our own service before God?

For your Families

4. Talk with your children about Jesus as being the Son of God and how he is also the Son of Man.