

Introduction:

When the Pharisees and Scribes are unsuccessful at trapping Jesus in his words, he then begins to ask them questions. He begins with a simple question: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” You can listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).¹



Scripture:

Turn to Mark 12:35-40 in your Bible or [click here](#).

So What?

At the center of this text Jesus warns the crowd, “Beware of the Scribes.” So it seems clear that he wants those listening to turn their attention to these teachers of the Law. By questioning the Scribes and Pharisees and quoting [Psalm 110:1](#) Jesus shows that the Scribes’ and Pharisees’ interpretation is inadequate. They think the Messiah is just a man, the son of David, yet King David himself calls the Christ “Lord” by the leading of the Holy Spirit. While they *know* what the word says, they don’t really *understand* what it means. Jesus is also calling on the those who are not experts of the Law to reconsider what they have been taught, so that they might come to the knowledge of the truth: The Christ is not just the son of David; he is the Son of God.

Choose wisely who you follow, because a disciple becomes just like his teacher.

The Lord also shows that the Scribes and the Pharisees are not only lacking in their interpretation of the Law, but in its right practice. They are the teachers of Israel. They are meant to humbly point the people to God and to be an example for them. Instead, they are self seeking and destructive. They not only fail to know God, but they are keeping others from doing so ([Matthew 23:15](#)). In other words, they are leading people astray, just as they have gone astray. Jesus warned his listeners that the scribes interpretations were inadequate, and their lifestyle was hypocritical. He warns them, because he wants them to come to the knowledge of the truth. He wants them to choose carefully who they follow, because **a disciple becomes just like his teacher.**

What Now?

1. We want have a broad knowledge of scripture, and we should seek to understand it. Little exposure to God’s word leaves us with little discernment when faced with half-truths and deception. The Holy Spirit gives us discernment through the word of God.
2. We must also consider all that scripture has to say on a given subject, letting scripture explain scripture. We must not make doctrines based on a single verse. We want to avoid the trap of the scribes who allowed their opinions to influence scripture’s meaning. We must instead allow scripture to shape our opinions.
3. We live in an age of unprecedented availability of teaching. Much of it is good, but much of it is not. We must not just accept everything we hear without holding it up to the measuring stick of scripture and the discernment that comes from the Holy Spirit. We receive the Truth from God’s word, not from impressive men with charismatic personalities.

¹ <http://firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>