

**Main Point: In the place where Jesus is recognised as the true Messiah, religious oppression is punished and small wholehearted discipleship is honoured**

**Call people to trust Jesus as ruler because he is the best person to live under.**

Is Joe Wicks a well meaning frustrated PE teacher who wants to help the nation – or is he a monster with unfeasibly good abs who want to torture us all?

I really can't decide. Game where did the easy exercise if you get heads and hard one if tails, seemed to never get heads.

Matters for his workout what you think of him: always saying things like – give it your all, push to the end. Convinced that Joe Wicks just out to torture us like, let's be honest, most PE teachers, really not going to push to the end and give it your all.

If you really think Joe Wicks is there to save our health, really for us, then push to the end, give it your all, best for you.

This section of Mark's Gospel, biography of Jesus, is about Jesus coming into conflict with the rulers of his day. Headed into the place that was the centre of their power, temple, vandalised it. Incredibly insulting story: they are just tenants in this word made by God, temporary and on borrowed time, while he is the beloved son of the God who made the world.

He has authority to rule over them, and over us. Infuriated by his claim over them, as many of us are at the idea that we can't just make our own choices.

Right about that. If God made this world, lends us time here, we don't just get to do what we want. Grill him about his views on important matters: taxes, marriage, religious practice.

Pause from the questions, Jesus has shut them up, edged them out, and he holds the floor to talk what he wants to talk about, right in centre of their power.

Pushing you and me and them closer and closer to working out. Do I accept his authority? Is his claim on my life one that I will listen to? Hard. Asks hard things, give it my all. Should you? No not deciding, you either do the exercise or you don't, ignoring is choosing against him. Stopped asking questions, he is going to lay out his own agenda – going to insist that you are in charge, or give him your all?

I think you will be convinced not simply by moral rightness – God's son is one we have to listen to when we are just tenants here, but because the stuff he says will win you to believe he wants what is best. Trusting him is hard, but good.

### **The Messiah's Credentials**

Youth group leader saying: not everyone is interested in the musical theatre CD collection. Be yourself and we love you, but not everyone is interested in that.

Feels like Jesus might be doing that. Psalm 110. When given the floor, Jesus turns to explaining an obscure Bible passage. Might be wondering why we do that here on our youtube channel – good enough for son of the vineyard owner, pattern we follow too.

Jesus says, here's an interesting question. The teachers of the law, people whose power he is threatening they say that there is someone coming who they will respect. Messiah.

Qualification, needs to be a son of David. David had been their best king so far, repeat the past.

If we could just get someone leading us who was only a bit like....

Felt that way, Messiah when they come could just be a patch on David then we'd be fine. Lift the rule of Romans from our shoulders.

Jesus says, here's something interesting; when David wrote about the Messiah coming to sort things out, he under the power of God himself called him Lord.

Obsessed with looking for David's son. Really you need to be looking for someone who is David's Lord.

Read Psalm 110 Jesus is quoting terrifying leader who will set up his rule from Zion which is, where Jesus is standing at that moment, crush and take down his enemies completely.

Far greater and more frightening than David. Strange about that, far as these people were concerned King was absolute top of the tree – only person who was David's Lord – God himself.

God is speaking to David's Lord – the Lord said to my Lord. Greater king than David who is also God himself, yet addressed by God – couldn't be could it, God's divine son? Son of the vineyard owner.

Mean to say that planted in their own beliefs was the proof a king greater than David would come and actually be God himself? More, Psalm 110 – crush his enemies to nothing.

Who could it be and who could they be?

Jesus talks and sets the agenda, he is talking about himself! Don't usually like people like that, talk about themselves.

Get, it is the key question. Looking on at all of this, it is the key question. Is Jesus God's divine son, coming to earth to call people to live under his rule, and to crush his enemies?

Old argument, worth repeating here: people odd things picking Jesus teachings for moral advice. Love your neighbour, do unto others. Jesus said it backed it up. Jesus claimed to be king greater than David, eternal son of God come to crush his enemies. Of course if that's true must obey him, selectively decide to quote him when he says something you agree with.

Christians, play it with the other things. Selective listening. Jesus says some difficult things, reiterate in this bit of the Bible. Switch off the fact that it's Jesus saying them when they are difficult. Very difficult things about divorce and money, service, and all sorts. Don't really have to do what Jesus says them.

Key question is not whether I would like to pray for and share my faith so people come to know God. Jesus says I have to do that – question is who is Jesus?

Not really question whether I should pray in faith. Jesus says I should, who is Jesus?

Forgive my enemies. Jesus says I should – who is Jesus?

Is Jesus the ruler of Psalm 110 – God who made everything among us, better than any other ruler? Is he?

Note the people are delighted with this teaching. Sounds harsh and firm and unignorable. They are delighted because they get this: Jesus use his power on their side.

**The Messiah Drops Bombs**

Psalm 110 said this king would crush his enemies, Jesus seems to do that. Circling the teachers of the law, they are mistaken, turns on them, in their own presence in the centre of the power and says, beware of them.

Beware of them.

Such people, people like them will be punished most severely.

Thing that has jumped out at me most as we have tried to be recaptured by Jesus in this series – rarely angry but when he is, he is angry with people like this. Who are these people? People who use religious power to elevate themselves and crush others.

They like to walk about in flowing robes – they like to wear stuff that makes them look more important and holy than everyone else. Extensive social media profile extolling their brilliance.

Seek for people to think that they are great.

They want to sit in the place that's most important, to be honoured more than anyone else.

In faith communities always means someone gets devoured – some usually poor person is paying for you to have the best seat, you have taught them that's how to honour God. Have to look like worth following – lengthy prayers to look good. Christian leader pushing for yourself to get more, someone is getting squashed there, and fakery going on to get more attention.

Jesus anger is saved up for people who use God to crush others through fake religious. Oppression through religion is the thing that this king will crush.

Selective listening to Jesus: lots of Christians over the ages have failed to listen to this at the most shallow level. Begin journey in Christian

leadership by dressing people up in funny robes, taking them to an important civic building. Higher you get, more flowing your robes and the more important the place you have to sit.

Deeper level. Liverpool there is history of religious leaders, defensive uniform of flowing robes abusing most vulnerable of all. Tragic, awful, Jesus saves his anger for that. Lifted up above all other kings and rulers, power he is given to punish that.

In an attempt to cut off temptation to abuse spiritual power, in our tradition we don't have flowing robes, make a huge fuss when someone is appointed to be a leader, and try and have systems of accountability to make this harder to happen.

But of course we can have none of that and have just the same attitude. System without robes and important seats might help, only thing that keeps me or you from abusing power in service of making ourselves look good. It's in my heart to want that as much as in the Pharisees. just who Jesus is.

Is Jesus the Lord, even of David, is he against me using whatever power I have to get myself respect and honour? Is Jesus eternal son of God saying no place in his kingdom for people to try and get the best seat, if we do that we will be punished? Can Jesus say that? That is the question.

Listen, people who live for the approval of others and thus devour others who are weak – they will be punished. There is no place for people like that in the kingdom that Jesus is forming. Leader who do that will not get away with it.

This urge to have the best seat, to be honoured as we walk around, efforts recognised by status increasing, all Christians need to be extremely

wary of that. Feel like that some time, not that you will be punished, careful.

One thing we get at the moment, something small, just let it go it can destroy everything.

Little bit of “serving” to get respect, bitterness that you aren’t getting respected, from others grow and mushroom exponentially, twist. Not that every incidence of that will be punished, but letting that grow could turn you into someone who ends up outside the rule of this King, enemy.

Coaxed and called into service, Jesus says it’s the mark of his kingdom. When do, irritated that people aren’t doing it their way, thanking them enough.

Small group leaders. We had a chat about how people should be encouraging us more. People should be, if you are being led, encourage your leader, if your discussion about leading others defaults to – people aren’t respecting me enough – problematic. Cut off, repent of, before it starts to twist.

Preach the Gospel, die, be forgotten. If Jesus is the great and conquering king, I need to be happy with that.

Always a victim where you seek respect, honour and importance.

Hold me, and leaders of church to that. Church culture. Jesus is against it.

### **The Messiah’s heroes**

King who rules the world, we can see what he is against, but what is he for?

Rich people putting in large amounts of money to the temple treasury. Poor widow came in and put 2 coins in.

Insignificant socially excluded person who doesn’t financially give much. 2 coins make little difference to the treasury at all.

Because she put in everything she had, that is noticed, that is honoured, actually turned by Jesus into something that has amazing significance, still looked on at we are speaking about it today.

In the place where this great Messiah rules, greater than David, crushes his enemies – people oppressing others with religion, what matters to him is the wholehearted love of people who seem insignificant.

Religious leaders doing what people do, jockeying to get the place of recognition.

Stupid. Unrecognised, unloved, not powerful person who Jesus is drawn to. He’s interested in the people no one else is paying attention to. You move yourself out of his field of vision by pushing your own profile higher.

Not just making it up – she put more in. What those outsider, insignificant poor people do matters more to him than all the big gestures of the rich and famous – he is God, he gets to say what matters.

Most people watching this are pretty unimportant, instead of pushing for more recognition, hurting others by trying to get space for yourself, accept and be free – Jesus loves the widows, the fisherman, the tax guy.

Martyrs.

Gave her all. Not about giving money to any particular church. Problem with this – widow giving to system teachers of the law using to devour people. Wicked system and Jesus is going to bring it down – see the next chapter for that.

Faithful people, who give all to God, even if they live in messed up systems he calls and sees and honours us giving all we have to serve God.

Most of us have no clue what it's like to give all we have to live on away because we think it is right thing to do.

If Jesus is the one Psalm 110 talks about, everything is his. Sit down, think about whole life, ask what it means to give it to Jesus. Jesus saying he sees when you give your whole life to God. He thinks that is right. He welcomes and loved and takes the smallest and weakest and least significant and uses their wholly resources which might be small to do amazing things.

Call to give everything to Jesus – he will not overlook it.

More than that – whole section is to say Jesus is the type of person you can give it all to, and he sees.

If you know you are weak, far away from God, what you have to give seems like not much – please come to Jesus, ask him for help with a simple prayer.

No one else rather entrust our lives to.

Give it your all if you trust the person asking you to give it your all. You decide. Trust this one who rules over everything, who hates oppression, loves and honours the poor outsiders. Give all to him.