

Lord Jesus when we hear Your holy Law and are condemned spare us from despair by hearing also Your holy saving Gospel giving us confidence that You have fulfilled the Law in our behalf so that we are declared righteous in You before the Father in heaven. Amen.

But when the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls Him Lord, saying, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies under Your feet'? If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions.

In Christ Jesus, the Son of David and the Son of God, dear fellow redeemed:

If Jesus were only the Son of God, we would have reason to hate the Law of God, which as Jesus summarizes in our text to be these two demands: 1. Love God with every ounce of your being and in all that you do, say and think. 2. Love your fellow human being with the same love you naturally have for yourself. Not a one of us can check either of those commandments off as being fulfilled by us. In reviewing them we have failed repeatedly and most miserably.

But we know Jesus to be not only the holy Son of God, but also the perfect Son of David. Knowing and trusting this, we have reason to hope in this life, unlike Jesus' enemies in our text. They were seeking a way they could claim sufficient fulfillment of the Law in their lives. As we review these two main teachings of God's Word – the Law and the Gospel, keep in mind that for Jesus' sake you have reason to **Question Not Your Fulfillment of Keeping the Commandments**. And thus we now delight in the Law of God.

I

As mentioned, the daily evidence of our misbehavior condemns us all. The blatant evidence is the basis of our daily repentance as Christians. By faith in Christ Jesus as our Savior we do not begin our

prayers like the Pharisee in the temple: *"God, I thank you I am not like other men"* but rather as the Tax Collector *"God, have mercy on me"*

Our text took place on Tuesday of Holy Week; a day on which Jesus was plied with many questions of entrapment. The Pharisaical lawyer, asked Jesus this question to test Him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" He, no doubt, was hoping that Jesus would appear to minimize the Law in speaking the Gospel among the people. But Jesus did not take the bait and clearly summarized the Law, which this man knew well. No trap could be sprung on Jesus, their mouths were shut just like the Sadducees had been silenced by Jesus' answer to their question.

Jesus then turned the tables on them to expose their false theology by asking these series of questions: "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?" "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls Him Lord, saying, '"The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies under Your feet'? If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?" They knew the Christ would be a descendant of David, but were confused about the full nature of the Christ. He was to be truly Human, but also as David's Lord, true God as well.

What these religious leaders were looking for in the Christ was not a holy Substitute who alone would be able to do the work of saving them from their sin. They were looking for an Israelite Champion who would recognize their moral superiority and free them from the tyranny of all Gentile rule, especially their current Roman occupiers.

Sadly, there are many versions of these erroneous approaches toward Jesus even today, which can be named among those who claim Jesus as the Christ. Even you and I at times think along such self-righteous ways and imagine that we will be found by Jesus in the end to be those who have a moral superiority over against our many neighbors. But such wayward thoughts with which we flirt are repented of and by God's grace we can answer the questions of Jesus. He is both the Son of David and the Son of God, true man and true God. We know and trust that in being both He was able to perform the role of our holy Substitute completely.

II

You do share this one thing with the Pharisees and the Sadducees of Jesus' day: you hunger and thirst after complete righteousness. You want to be right with God not only for the present but for all eternity. What you have which they did not on that Holy

Tuesday, was knowing and trusting how God has fulfilled this righteous demand for you.

While they went about questioning how they would be found righteous, you know, because you know who Jesus is and what He has done to supply this overwhelming need. You see, Jesus lived that perfect life under the Law, not for Himself, because He already possessed the eternal righteousness of God. But He fulfilled it for all whom He was sent to save, namely all sinners.

Jesus, true Man and true God, lived in this life for 33 years always fearing, loving and trusting in God above all things. He always called upon the name of His Father in the day of trouble, praying, praising and giving thanks. He always held the Word of God sacred and gladly heard and learned from youth onward into adulthood. He always honored, served, obeyed, loved and esteemed His parents and all other superiors. He always helped and befriended His neighbors in their every need. He always led a chaste and descent life honoring the sacred institution of marriage. He always helped His neighbor to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living. He always upheld His neighbors reputation by excusing him, speaking well of him and putting the best construction on everything. He always helped and served His neighbor in keeping all that he had and urged His neighbors to stay and serve those who employed them.

That is quite a list of righteous conduct and behavior. Through faith in this perfect holy Substitute all His righteousness has been credited to your account, my fellow redeemed. You lack nothing and need not question the fulfillment of keeping those commandments. Far from boasting in yourself in having achieved this righteousness, you boast in the Lord, the Son of David and the Son of God, who lived and died for you, my fellow sinners.

You and I have no reason to ask Jesus questions, but rather we have reason to trust all His answers for us. Sure, there are those things that have not been answered in the Word of God which cause us to have questions at times. But none of those questions have answers, which unless known would place our salvation in jeopardy. Rather all the answers revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures inform us of all that we need to know for salvation. God did not hold out on us the truths that will calm and settle us. He declares us forgiven and righteous through the person and work of His Son.

What you know for yourself is, in truth, the same thing that can be known and believed by all your neighbors. Sadly many of your neighbors are still ignorant of these saving truths for themselves, in

part because no one has told them. Do you love God your Savior with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself? As we already have established, in Christ you most certainly do. Now you get to fulfill all the righteous acts which in Christ you already possess. The burden of the doing is gone. It is replaced by the joy of getting to do - to the praise and glory of the Son of David and the Son of God. Not one of God's commandments has been left unfulfilled by you, ... for Jesus' sake. Amen.