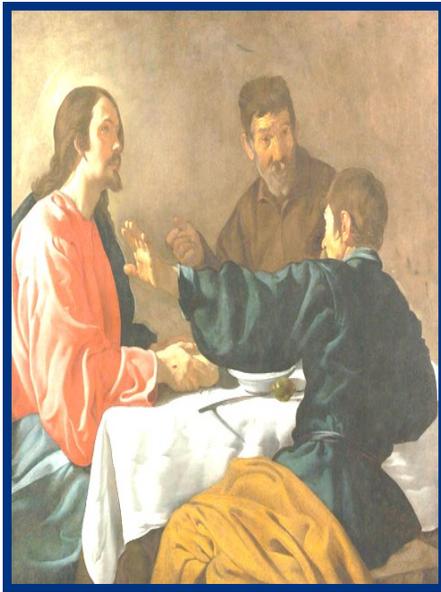


son, but David himself calls Him his Lord? How can He whom David calls His Lord be his son?' Had the Jews been instructed in the Christian faith,



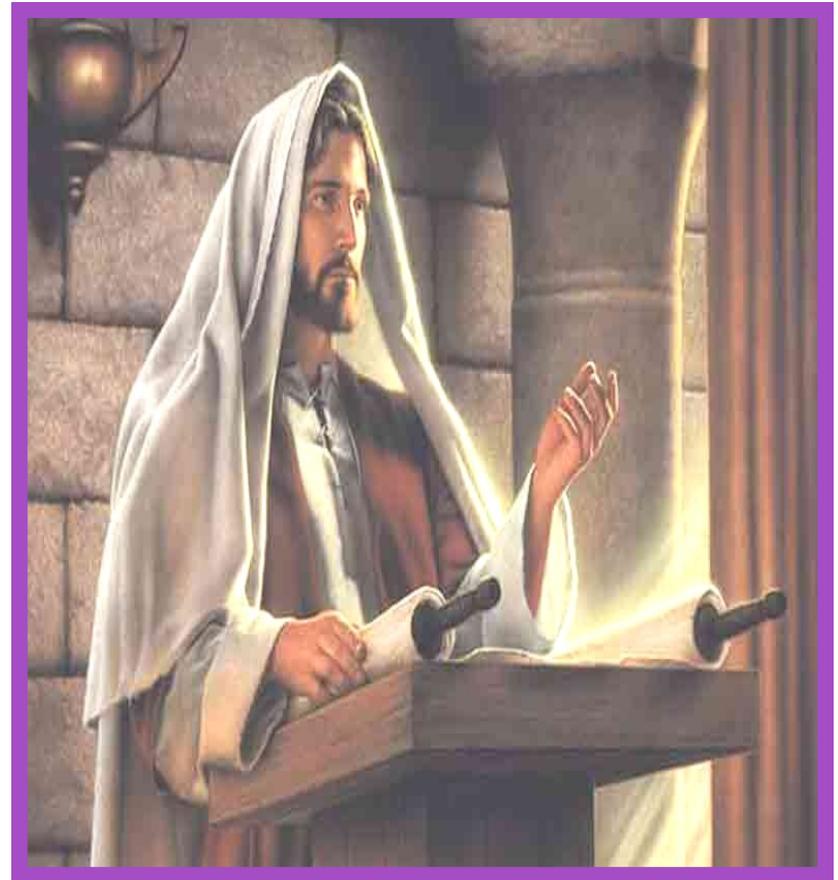
Recognizing Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

which we hold, had they not closed their hearts to the Gospel, had they wished to have within them the true life of the spirit; instructed in the faith of the Church, they would have answered His question, and would have said: Because in *the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*, this is *how* He is David's Lord; and because, *the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*, this is *how* He

is David's Son. But not knowing this, they are dumb; and with their mouths closed, they did not even keep their ears open, so that being instructed they might learn what they could not answer when asked.



**SERMON ON
MYSTERY OF THE WORD INCARNATE
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
113 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 3 - Pages 1351 - 1352 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew 22: 34-46

by: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor

That Christ is the Messiah is proved against the Jews.

When the Jews were asked, as we have just heard while the Gospel was being read, how our Lord Jesus Christ Whom David himself called his Lord, was the son of David, they could not answer. For of the Lord they knew only what they saw in Him. To them He appeared a son of man: that He is the Son of God was hidden from them. Because of this they believed He could be defeated, and because of this they mocked Him hanging upon the wood; exclaiming: *If he be the Son of God, let him come down from the cross; and we will believe him* (Mt. xxvii. 40, 42). They saw one form of Him; there was another they did not know. Had they known it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory (I Cor. ii. 8).

They knew however that the Christ was the son of David. And even now they hope for His Coming. It is hidden from them that He has come. But it is hidden because they willed it so. For not acknowledging Him on the cross, the knowledge of Him reigning in glory should not be theirs. For in Whose name are all peoples called, and blessed (Gen. xxii. 18), if not in His Whom they thought was not the Christ? And this son of David truly of the seed of David according to the flesh, is a son of Abraham. If it was said to Abraham: *In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed*, and they now see all

nations blessed in our Christ; why are they hoping for what has already come, and why are they not fearful of what *is* to come?

For our Lord Jesus Christ, making use of prophetic testimony to assert His authority, referred to Himself as *the stone* (Mt. xxi. 42); such a *stone* that whoever stumbles upon it, shall be bruised; but upon it shall fall, it will grind to powder (Lk. xx. 17, 18). One stumbles on it when it lies upon the ground. Lying on the ground, it shakes whoever falls over it; coming from on high, it crushes the proud. Already the Jews have been shaken by their former stumble. What awaits them is to be crushed by His glorious Coming, unless that, while they still live, they confess Him so that they may not die. For God is patient, and daily invites them to faith.

And when the Jews could not answer the question put to them by the Lord, asking whose son they said Christ was; they answering, the Son of David, He adds and proposes another question: How then doth David call him Lord, saying: *The Lord said to my Lord: Sit on my right hand, until I make thy enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?* He did not say, 'He is not his son,' but, *How is he his son?* *How*, as He uses it, is the word of one asking, not denying; as though He said: 'You say well that Christ is David's