

As Jesus travelled about,
he passed through city gates,
he walked through marketplaces,
he taught in synagogues.
People in need of healing, who couldn't get close to him because they couldn't see
or were unable to move from where they sat,
discovered a way to get his attention.
They would cry out for help "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!"
Jesus often responded with compassion to such cries.

The Pharisees and scribes didn't like when people used this title "Son of David".
The Israelites awaited the promised Messiah.
When beggars and cripples and the poor used the title "Son of David" when referring to Jesus
they were pronouncing their faith that he was the Messiah,
the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
The religious leaders argued against this conclusion
stating that 1.) Jesus did come from the right place, the right city;
2.) he broke the law; and 3.) he didn't give them honor as they expected he should...
he didn't recognize them as true and faithful religious leaders.
When the Pharisees and scribes heard the people hailing Jesus as Savior and Messiah
they became enraged.

They attempt to discredit Jesus by quoting the Hebrew Scriptures.
They use Psalm 110 as proof for the conclusion that Jesus' couldn't be the Messiah.
Jesus pokes holes in their argument...
and the people are delighted that the Pharisees and scribes are taken down a notch or two.

To this day there are people who attempt to discredit Jesus as the Christ,
as the Messiah, as the Savior.
Historically, critics and detractors have emerged all through the ages.
In general, intellectual arguments against the validity of Christianity
are founded on the presence of violence, corruption, superstition and bigotry
perpetrated by people who claim to be Christian and within the institutional church.
Atheists argue God doesn't exist.
Others see no need for a Messiah.

We accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
As Lord, he has power over heaven and earth.
He is the source of all truth.
His position is equal to that of God.
His glory is beyond all earthly measure.

As Savior he shows himself victorious over sin and death.
He sets us free from our captivity, from the oppression of evil.
He forgives our transgressions against love and goodness,
he forgives our disobedience of God's commands.
He shows us the path of life
and leads us to that Kingdom which lasts forever.

Today's prayer: "O Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, we turn to You in our hearts. We accept Jesus
Your Son as Savior and seek to understand and live according to His ways. Bless us with new faith. May
our words and actions never cause others to doubt the truth of Your love for this world. Amen!"