

**The Thrill of Victory or the Agony of Defeat?
(Matthew 22:41-23:39)**

I. Review

- a. Victory comes from Jesus and endures through obedience, prayer, and faith in Him.
- b. Experience victory by seeing the Truth, Believing the Truth, and living according to the Truth.
- c. Experience victory by giving God what belongs to Him and by living resurrected lives. Others experience victory when we live lives of love.

II. Whose son is the Christ? (Matthew 22:41-46)

- a. Psalm 110:1.
- b. Son of David – fully human.
- c. Son of the Father and Lord (Adonai) – fully God.
- d. Victor over all His enemies.

III. Jesus shares a picture of victory. (Matthew 23:1-12)

- a. Be humble – be great. (vs. 11-12)
- b. Practice what you preach. (vs. 3)
- c. Lead by example. (vs. 4)
- d. Wear your chinstrap when no one is looking. (vs. 5)
- e. Point people to Jesus, not yourself. (vs. 6-10)

IV. Jesus shares a picture of defeat. (Matthew 23:13-32)

- a. You are closing the door to the Kingdom. (vs. 13)
- b. You want people to follow you instead of Jesus. (vs. 15)
- c. You make following God too complicated. (vs. 16-22)
- d. You focus on religious ritual instead of godly living. (vs. 23-24)
- e. You are concerned about your appearance instead of your heart. (vs. 25-26)
- f. You appear to be alive on the outside but are dead on the inside. (vs. 27-28)
- g. You appear to support God's prophets, but you are plotting to kill me. (29-32)

V. Jesus shares a way to victory. (Matthew 23:33-39)

- a. How will you escape defeat? (vs. 33)
- b. You will fight against God. (vs. 34)
- c. You will lose. (vs. 35-36)
- d. You can have victory! (vs. 37-39)

We need to be willing

if we want to share in the victory Jesus offers.