

“In Quest”

The Rev Drew Willard
UCC at The Villages
October 23rd, 2011

Deut. 34:1-12

Matt. 22:34-46

‘Now while the Pharisees were gathered together,
Jesus asked them a question, saying,
"What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?"

They said to him,
"The son of David."”

Matt. 22:41-42

Let us pray... O God,
Amen

What are we here to do?

Are we taking the long view of who we are
at this particular time and in this particular place
Do we run the risk of pigeon-holing ourselves?
Putting ourselves in a box?
Or is that all being a Christian should mean

Moses shown the ‘Promised Land’
Just given a glimpse

Pharisees tried to stump Jesus
What is the greatest commandment?
Jesus stumped them back,
Who is the Messiah?

We all know the mission is ‘to love’, but that can be a nice safe platitude

‘The LORD says to my lord:
"Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.”’ Psa. 110:1

*Today's lesson from the Jewish Scriptures is Deuteronomy 34:1-12
and tells about the end of Moses' journey
leading the Hebrew people through the desert.
But it is also the beginning of a new journey for the Hebrew people
to be led by Joshua into the Promised Land.*

^{34:1}Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo,
to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho,
and the LORD showed him the whole land:
Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh,
all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,³the Negeb,
and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—
as far as Zoar.

⁴The LORD said to him,
'This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob,
saying, "I will give it to your descendants";
I have let you see it with your eyes,
but you shall not cross over there.'

⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab,
at the LORD's command.

⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor,
but no one knows his burial place to this day.

⁷Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died;
his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated.

⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days;
then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom,
because Moses had laid his hands on him;
and the Israelites obeyed him,
doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses,
whom the LORD knew face to face.

¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD
sent him to perform in the land of Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land,

¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Matt. 22:34-46 [RSV]

[34] But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sad'ducees, they came together.

[35] And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him.

[36] "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

[37] 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.

[38] This is the great and first commandment.

[39] And a second is like it,

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[40] On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

[41] Now while the Pharisees were gathered together,

Jesus asked them a question, [42] saying,

"What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?"

They said to him,

"The son of David."

[43] He said to them,

"How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

[44] 'The Lord said to my Lord,

Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet'?

[45] If David thus calls him Lord, how is he [David's] son?"

[46] And no one was able to answer him a word,

nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.