

WHO IS JESUS? *verbose*

Need: To realize that Jesus Christ is the God-man

Goal: Is to understand the importance of Jesus' claims about Himself

READ: Matthew 16:13-17

Context

Foundations of the Faith

A study on the rudiments of Christianity

All professionals review the basics at least once a year

Vince Lombardi "this is a football"

Baseball- spring training

Four Sources of authority:

Why is it important to know who Jesus is?

John Stott: "Christianity is Christ. The person and work of Christ are the rock upon which the Christian religion is built. If He is not who He said he was, and if He did not do what He said he came to do, the foundation is undermined and the whole superstructure will collapse. Take Christ from Christianity, and you disembowel it; there is practically nothing left. Christ is the center of Christianity; all else is circumference."

The Bible tells us that the identity of Jesus Christ is the basis of salvation (Acts 4:12), and that only by believing in Him can we be saved (John 3:16-18; 3:36; 5:24; 6:47).

WHO DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE?

Of all great religious teachers, Jesus was the most self-directed in His teaching and outlandish in His claims.

A. HIS INDIRECT CLAIMS OF WHO HE WAS: Jesus claimed to be the answer to the needs of people

1. John 6:35
2. John 9:5
3. John 10:9
4. John 10:11

5. John 11:25
6. John 14:6
7. John 15:1,5
8. John 5:39,46

B. HIS CLAIMS OF AUTHORITY: Jesus claimed to have the authority to do things only God could do

1. Forgive sins. Mark 2:1-12; Luke 7:36-50
2. Give life. John 5:21; 17:1-2
3. Judge the world. John 5:22,25-29

C. HIS DIRECT CLAIMS OF WHO HE WAS: Jesus believed Himself to be not only the Messiah predicted in the Old Testament (John 4:25-26), but God Himself.

1. He Equated One's Response to Him With Their Response to God. In John's Gospel we hear him say that to know him was to know God (John 8:19; 14:7); to see him was to see God (14:9); to believe in him was to believe in God (12:45); to hate Him was to hate God (15:23); to fail to honor him was to fail honor God (5:23).
2. He Claimed to be the "I Am"/Jehovah/Yahweh/God Himself. John 8:51- 59; Exodus 3:13-14; John 18:5-6
3. He Claimed to be God. John 10:30-33; 5:17-18

FACT: JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

Review Points:

Why is it important to know who Jesus is? "***Christianity is Christ.***

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WHO DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE?

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A. HIS INDIRECT CLAIMS OF WHO HE IS

B. HIS CLAIMS OF AUTHORITY

C. HIS DIRECT CLAIMS OF WHO HE IS

FACT: JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

Take Away:

A. IF HIS CLAIMS ARE FALSE: HE IS NOT GOD

Options if Jesus' claims are false:

1. He thought he was God, but was mistaken: **Jesus was a lunatic.**

2. He knew he was not God, but he lied: **Jesus was a liar.**

B. IF HIS CLAIMS ARE TRUE: HE IS GOD

Because He is God, He had every right and obligation to claim to be so:
Jesus is Lord

The historical Jesus' actions are congruent with His integrity.

Meaning no disrespect to the religious convictions of others, I still can't help wondering how we can explain away what to me is the greatest miracle of all and which is recorded in history. No one denies there was such a man, that he lived and that he was put to death by crucifixion. Where...is the miracle I spoke of? Well consider this and let your imagination translate the story into our own time -- possibly to your own home town. A young man whose father is a carpenter grows up working in his father's shop. One day he puts down his tools and walks out of his father's shop. He starts preaching on street corners and in the nearby countryside, walking from place to place, preaching all the while, even though he is not an ordained minister. He does this for three years. Then he is arrested, tried and convicted. There is no court of appeal, so he is executed at age 33 along with two common thieves. Those in charge of his execution roll dice to see who gets his clothing -- the only possessions he has. His family cannot afford a burial place for him so he is interred in a borrowed tomb. End of story?

No, this uneducated, propertyless young man who...left no written word has, for 2000 years, had a greater effect on the world than all the rulers, kings, emperors; all the conquerors, generals and admirals, all the scholars, scientists and philosophers who have ever lived -- all of them put together. How do we explain that?...unless he really was who he said he was."

Ronald Reagan

During our daily quiet time: *verbose*

15 minutes/ day

Write down questions in your prayer journal

Pray over them daily

Meditate on this question: To me, who is Jesus?