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Who Is Jesus?

JOHN 20:30-31

Introduction

1. When we hear the name of a person, what do we do?
2. If it is someone of whom we have no knowledge, we may ask . . .
 - a. "Who is that?"
 - b. "Who are they related to?"
 - c. Question where he or she lives?
3. If it is someone we know, we typically . . .
 - a. Associate the name with other family members.
 - b. Reflect upon our personal experiences with him or her.
 - c. Consider what they now do for a living, their profession.
4. When you hear the name Jesus, what do you think?
 - a. The son of Joseph and Mary?
 - b. The carpenter from Nazareth?
 - c. The Son of God?
 - d. The Savior of all who believe?
5. Who you believe Him to be is important, because it determines how you respond to Him.
6. Last week, we looked at the fact that God is in the details — He has spoken to mankind and acted in our world.
7. Both of these God has fully done in Jesus Christ.
8. This morning, I would like for us to look at the Gospels, the four accounts of Jesus' life by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, in order to determine if this carpenter from Nazareth was the Son of God.

9. The evidence they present to us is threefold:
 - a. First, there is what He said about Himself.
 - b. Second, we encounter those things which speak to His character.
 - c. Finally, there is His resurrection from the dead.
10. As we examine each, I believe you and I will come to the same conclusion: Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God.
11. This morning, we will look at the first bit of that evidence — what was it that Jesus said about Himself.

Slide 2**A. "I AM"**

1. You don't need to read far into the Gospel accounts before you realize that Jesus was constantly speaking about Himself.
2. The self-centeredness of His teaching was not in a boastful or arrogant manner, but to point people to something they needed in life.
3. The words, "I am," (*Ego emi*), were constantly found on His lips.
4. These words not only identified Him as God, but pointed to that which He offered to the world:
 - a. "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35).
 - b. "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).
 - c. "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25, 26).
 - d. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).
4. He once asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20).
5. On other occasions, He said things like . . .
 - a. "Abraham rejoiced to see My day" (John 8:56).
 - b. "Moses . . . wrote about Me" (John 5:46).
 - c. "the Scriptures . . . testify about Me" (John 5:39).

- d. When He went back to the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth and was given the opportunity to read from the Scriptures, He read from Isaiah 61:1-2:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

(Luke 4:18–19, NASB95)

- e. Luke tells us that He then “rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.”
- f. With the eyes of everyone in the synagogue focused on Him, He said, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21).

6. If you or I were to say such a thing, how would others respond?

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B. “GOD IS MY FATHER”

1. Jesus claimed a unique relationship with God.
2. He constantly spoke of this close association with God, calling Him, “My Father.”
 - a. At the age of twelve when His parents searched for Him for three days and finally found Him in the temple in Jerusalem, He asked them, “Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49, NASB95).
 - b. Following His healing of the lame man by the Pool of Bethesda, He told those who were persecuting Him, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working” (John 5:17).
 - c. Later, at the Feast of Dedication, He told those who were persecuting

Him, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

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C. "I SPEAK TRUTH AS NO OTHER MAN"

1. It wasn't so much the truths He taught as the authority with which He taught them.
2. His contemporaries were deeply impressed with His wisdom.
 - a. Those in His hometown of Nazareth, who watched Him grow up, asked, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him? (Mark 6:2).
 - b. Those in Jerusalem at the Feast of Booths were astonished, "How has this man become learned, having never been educated?" (John 7:15).
3. The crowds were even more impressed with His authority:
 - a. On this same occasion in Jerusalem, officers sent to arrest Him came back empty handed. When questioned why, they answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks" (John 7:46).
 - b. Luke, in chapter 4, verse 32 of his gospel tells us that those who one heard Him teach in a synagogue in Capernaum, "were amazed at His teaching," because "His message was with authority."
 - c. Following His Sermon on the Mount, Matthew records, "the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes." (Matthew 7:28-29, NASB95)
4. Because He was the Word made flesh, He never hesitated or apologized.
5. He had no need to contradict, withdraw or modify anything He said.
6. He issued absolute moral commands like . . .
 - a. "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44).
 - b. "Do not be worry about tomorrow" (Matthew 6:34).
 - c. "Do not judge so that you will not be judged" (Matthew 7:1).

7. He made promises, the fulfillment of which He had not doubt, “Ask, and it will be given to you . . .” (Matthew 7:7).
8. He declared His words to be eternal. They would never pass away (Matthew 5:35).

Slide 5**D. I ALONE CAN SATISFY YOUR DEEPEST NEED**

1. Jesus was constantly calling people to Himself:
 - a. “Come to Me” (Matthew 11:28).
 - b. Confess Me before others (Matthew 10:32).
 - c. Receive Me (Matthew 10:40).
 - d. “Learn from Me” (Matthew 11:29).
 - e. “Listen to Me” (Mark 7:14).
2. For those who came to Him, Jesus promised to . . .
 - a. Give rest to the weary (Matthew 11:28).
 - b. Satisfy the hunger that lies deep within us (John 6:35).
 - c. Quench the thirst of the parched soul (John 4:14).

Slide 6**E. I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS**

1. Last week, we examined the fact that our sins . . .
 - a. Our failure to do what God has told us to do
 - b. Our doing the things which God said we are not to do. . . separate us from Him (Isaiah 59:1-2).
2. Only the forgiveness of those sins can provide us the relationship with God our souls long for.
3. On two separate occasions in the Gospels, we find Jesus forgiving sins.
 - a. The first time was when a paralytic was brought to Jesus by that man’s

friends (Mark 2:1-12).

- 1) Unable to get to Jesus inside the house because of the crowd, they tore away the roof, and lowered their friend down to Him.
 - 2) Jesus' first words to the paralytic were, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5).
 - 3) This prompted some to believe that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy and ask themselves "who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mark 2:7).
 - 4) After questioning their conclusions, Jesus said to them, "so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home" (Mark 2:10-11).
 - 5) As they say, the rest is history.
- b. The second instance occurred in the house of a Pharisee named Simon:
- 1) It involved an immoral woman who, according to Luke's gospel (7:36-50), wet His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.
 - 2) Simon thought to himself that if Jesus knew who this woman was, He wouldn't allow her to wash His feet.
 - 3) After speaking to Simon and His guests about the relationship between love and forgiveness, Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins have been forgiven" (Luke 7:48).
 - 4) This prompted many of Simon's guests to ask themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" (Luke 7:49).
 - 5) The answer: the man before them was the eternal God who had become flesh.
4. Today, Jesus is the One who forgives or retains our sins, based upon our response to Him.

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F. ABUNDANT LIFE IS FOUND ONLY IN ME

1. Jesus described Himself as . . .
 - a. “the bread of life” (John 6:35), following the feeding of the 5,000.
 - b. “the resurrection and the life (John 11:25), at the tomb of Lazarus.
 - c. “the life” (John 14:6), to His disciples in the upper room.
2. He offered a Samaritan woman “living water” (John 4:10-15) and promised a rich young ruler eternal life if he would follow Him (Mark 10:17, 21).
3. He spoke of the “thief” [Satan] as coming “only to steal and kill and destroy,” He said that He came that we “may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).
4. His disciples recognized the truth of His claims.
5. On one occasion, when many turned away, never to follow Him again, Jesus asked the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” (John 6:67).
6. Peter responded, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

Slide 8**G. I AM THE ONE YOU MUST BELIEVE, LOVE AND OBEY**

1. All of these things which Jesus makes available to us are found only through our belief in, love for and obedience to Him as the Son of God.
2. The last statement which John records for us from the nighttime meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus is found in John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
3. In John 6:29, Jesus told the crowd at Capernaum, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent” (John 6:29).
4. He claims our supreme love (Matthew 10:37).

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.” (Matthew 10:37, NASB95)

Conclusion

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1. Why is it so important that you and I listen to these words of Jesus?
2. It is because there is coming a day when He shall return “in His glory, and all the angels with Him” (Matthew 25:31).
3. “He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will gathered before Him” (Matthew 25:32a).
4. “He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (Matthew 5:32b).
5. Some will be invited to inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world (Matthew 5:34).
6. Others will hear the fateful words, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 5:41).
7. Those who have lived their lives acknowledging Him before others, He will also acknowledge before His Father in heaven; those who have denied Him, He will also deny before His Father (Matthew 10:32-33, ESV).
8. It will be a sad day, if we are excluded from Heaven to hear Jesus say, “I never knew you” (Matthew 7:23).
9. Will you obey Him today?