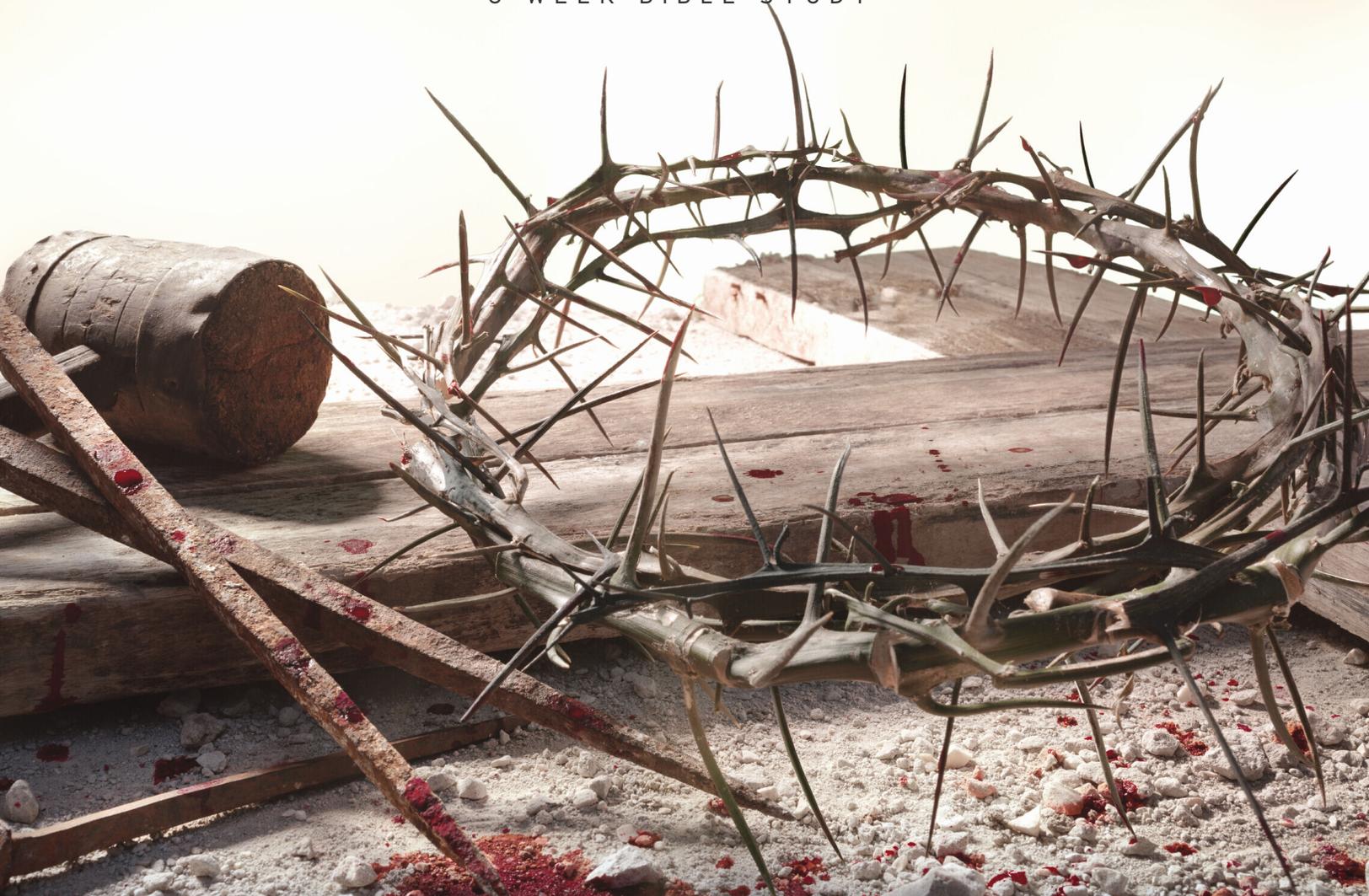


COLLEGE GOLF FELLOWSHIP

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

8 WEEK BIBLE STUDY



# Contents

- 1** Introduction
- 5** Week 1: Where Was Jesus Before He Came?
- 9** Week 2: How Did Jesus Come Into The World?
- 15** Week 3: What Was Jesus Like?
- 21** Week 4: What Did Jesus Do?
- 28** Week 5: What Did Jesus Teach?
- 34** Week 6: Why Did Jesus Die?
- 40** Week 7: Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?
- 51** Week 8: What Will You Do With Jesus?

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*8-Week Bible Study: Participant Guide*

## INTRODUCTION

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What is the most important question anyone could ever ask? Is there a God? Who made the world? Why do I exist? What happens after I die? These are certainly some of life's big questions, and all of them are very important. But there is one question that is even more important than these. It is a question that Jesus asked His disciples while He was with them (Matt. 16:15). And it's a question that when rightly answered, unlocks the answer to just about every other big question in life. You see, the man Jesus of Nazareth, who lived in Northern part of Israel in the first century AD, and the Bible that is written about Him, claims to have the answers to these big questions and many more like them. This Jesus, whoever He was, (and you must ultimately decide), and those who wrote about Him, make some extraordinary claims concerning His identity and purpose.

### CONSIDER SOME OF THE CLAIMS THAT JESUS MAKES OF HIMSELF:

#### **Jesus claims to be the Eternal God.**

*John 8:58— Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

“I AM” was the name God used to reveal Himself when He appeared to Moses in the Old Testament. This became the Israel's special covenant name for God. As a result, when Jesus makes the statement above, He is clearly claiming to be the eternal God.

#### **Jesus claims He is the only way to a relationship with God the Father.**

*John 14:6— Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

**Jesus claims that He is the way to only way escape God’s judgment.**

*John 3:36—Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

**Jesus claims that faith in Him is the only way to salvation and eternal life.**

*John 3:14-17— And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

**Jesus claims that the satisfaction and fulfillment we crave is ultimately found in Him.**

*John 6:35— Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”*

*John 10:7a,10b— So Jesus said again to them... “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*

These claims and many others like them came off of the lips of Jesus and continue to come out of the pages of Scripture. These claims are so weighty and controversial that they cannot be ignored. But it is not only Scripture that should cause us to ask the question: Who is this Jesus? History demands that we consider Him as well.

One anonymous poem clearly articulates the significance of this unique man:

*He was born in an obscure village,  
The child of a peasant woman.  
He grew up in still another village,  
Where he worked in a carpenter shop  
Until he was thirty.*

*Then for three years  
He was an itinerant preacher.  
He never wrote a book.  
He never held an office.  
He never had a family or owned a house.  
He didn’t go to college.*

*He never visited a big city.  
He never traveled two hundred miles  
From the place where he was born.  
He did none of the things  
One usually associates with greatness.  
He had no credentials but himself.*

*He was only thirty-three  
When the tide of public opinion turned against him.  
His friends ran away.  
He was turned over to his enemies.  
And went through the mockery of a trial.  
He was nailed to a cross  
Between two thieves.  
While he was dying,  
His executioners gambled for his clothing,  
The only property he had on Earth.  
When he was dead,  
He was laid in a borrowed grave  
Through the pity of a friend.*

*Twenty centuries have come and gone,  
And today he is the central figure  
Of the human race,  
And the leader of mankind's progress.  
All the armies that ever marched,  
All the navies that ever sailed,  
All the parliament that ever sat,  
All the kings that ever reigned,  
Put together have not affected  
The life of man on Earth  
As much as that  
One Solitary Life.*

It's certainly true. No one has impacted life on earth more than this one man, Jesus Christ. The human calendar is crafted around His life. And even today, roughly 2 billion people from nearly every nation around the globe claim allegiance to Him and worship Him on a weekly a basis.

So who is this Jesus? It's a question He asked His first disciples— **“Who do you say that I am?”** And it's a question that we all must ask and ultimately answer. Who do you say that He is? There is no more important question than this. The Bible says your eternity depends on it.

In order to answer that one question, over the next eight weeks we will ask eight smaller questions about Jesus that together will help us to answer to this one big question. The studies in the weeks to come are as follows:

- WHERE WAS JESUS BEFORE HE CAME?
- HOW DID JESUS COME INTO THE WORLD?
- WHAT WAS JESUS LIKE?
- WHAT DID JESUS DO?
- WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?
- WHY DID JESUS DIE?
- DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?
- WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

So who is Jesus Christ? It's time to find out!

*\*This material has been largely influenced by the book, "Who is This Jesus," by Michael Green, Thomas Nelson Publishers 1992.*

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 1: Where Was Jesus Before He Came?*

## INTRODUCTION

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For many people, when they first consider Jesus, their thoughts of Him begin in a manger in Bethlehem. Or perhaps, their thoughts may go back just a little bit further to His miraculous conception when the angel Gabriel appeared to His virgin mother Mary. But the Bible takes us back much further than this. When it comes to Jesus, the Bible takes us back to the very beginning. It tells us that Jesus has always been there; that He always was.

Today, by looking at four separate passages, we will consider where Jesus was and what He was doing long before He ever came into the world.

## BEFORE HE EVER CAME

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### 1. Present in the Beginning

*Genesis 1:1—In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Genesis 1:26a—Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”*

**According to Genesis 1, who did the creating in the beginning?**

**What do you notice about the pronouns in Genesis 1:26?**

**What does this imply?**

## 2. The Word: With God, Was God, Creator of All, Giver of Life

*John 1:1-4— In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

*John 1:14— And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**What is the first phrase of this passage and what does it draw our attention to?**

**According to John 1:1, who was at the beginning?**

**What does John say about “the Word”?**

**Who is this Word?**

**Why would John call Jesus the Word?**

**After reading just five short verses, John 1:1-4 and 14, summarize what John has written about where Jesus was and what He was doing before He came.**

## 3. Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, Heir of All Things

*Hebrews 1:1-3a— Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

**Similar to John 1, this passage communicates that through Jesus, God spoke to the world. This passage though, does not call Jesus “the Word” but instead,**

the “Son”. If Jesus always existed with God, indeed, if He was God, as John 1:1 states, why would Jesus be called the Son of God?

What does this passage say about what Jesus did before He came?

According to this passage, what has Jesus been doing since the creation of the world?

#### 4. The Praise of Heaven

*John 12:37-41—Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.*

Explanation: Verses 38 and 40 are quotes from the Old Testament book of Isaiah, chapter 53 and chapter 6 respectively. Isaiah was written roughly 700 years before Jesus came. John, however, says in verse 41 that “Isaiah said these things because he saw (Jesus’) glory and spoke of Him.” This has enormous implications, especially when we look at what occurred in Isaiah 6, which is what John was referring to.

*Isaiah 6:1-5—In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”*

How would you describe the events of Isaiah 6?

**According to the Gospel of John quoted above, who was it that Isaiah was seeing?**

**What does this imply about where Jesus was and what He was doing before He came?**

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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**Where was Jesus and what was He doing before He ever came?**

- He was with God (Genesis 1:26, John 1:1)
- He was God (Genesis 1:26, John 1:1)
- He made everything (Genesis 1:26, John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2)
- He was upholding the universe (Hebrews 1:3)
- He was the Object of heaven's praise (Isaiah 6:1-6, John 12:40-41, John 17:5)

All this, the Bible claims, before He ever came to Bethlehem.

## TO DISCUSS

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**What most stands out to you about Jesus before He came?**

**Would it make sense, based on what that Bible says about who Jesus is and where He was before He came, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?**

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

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Colossians 1:15-19

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 2: How Did Jesus Come Into the World?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so that you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?" we began last week by asking the question "Where was Jesus before He came?"

Here's what we found. According to the Bible, before Jesus ever came:

- He was with God (Genesis 1:26, John 1:1)
- He was God (Genesis 1:26, John 1:1)
- He made everything (Genesis 1:26, John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2)
- He was upholding the universe (Hebrews 1:3)
- He was the Object of heaven's praise (Isaiah 6:1-6, John 12:40-41, John 17:5)

Today, we want to learn more about Jesus by asking "How did Jesus come into the world?"

## THE PROMISES WITH THEIR FULFILLMENT

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### 1. The Offspring of Abraham and David

*Genesis 17:3-7— Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." (Abraham lived almost 2000 years before Jesus came.)*

*Samuel 7:5a,12-13-14a—Go and tell my servant David, "Thus says the Lord:...When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his*

kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.’” (David lived about 1000 years before Jesus came.)

**What can we conclude about the coming Messiah through these passages?**

*Matthew 1:1—The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

## 2. The Virgin Birth

*Isaiah 7:14—Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (The Book of Isaiah was written over 700 years before Jesus came.)*

**What can we conclude about the Messiah’s birth and identity from this passage?**

*Matthew 1:18, 22-23—Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit... All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).”*

## 3. A Son Who Would Reign

*Isaiah 9:6-7— For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

## What can we conclude about the Messiah from this passage?

*Luke 1:30-33—And the angel said to (Mary), “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

## 4. Born in Bethlehem

*Micah 5:2 —But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*

## What can we conclude about the Messiah from this passage?

*Luke 2:4-7— And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

## 5. The Conception with Its Implications

*Luke 1:26-35—In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of*

*Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”*

**According to this passage how would the conception of Jesus happen?**

**What would be the identity of the One who Mary would give birth to?**

**What are the implications of Jesus being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin?**

**Why is this important?**

## 6. The Understated Birth

*Luke 2:1-7— In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

**What can we learn about the birth of Jesus from these verses?**

**How would you have expected Him to come?**

## 7. The Worshipping Wise Men

*Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12— Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ...After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

**What did the wise men do in the presence of Jesus, only a baby at this time?**

**Why do you think the wise men would honor a baby in this way?**

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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### **How did Jesus come into the world?**

- His birth was the fulfillment of multiple prophecies, hundreds and even thousands of years before He came (Genesis 17:3-7, 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2, etc)
- He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a Virgin (Luke 1:30-33)
- He was born in time and space in history— 7 BC in the city of Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)
- He was born outside and placed into a manger (Luke 2:6-7)
- Not long after His birth, wise men came to worship Him and lavish Him with extravagant gifts, convinced of His unique identity. (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12)

## TO DISCUSS

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What most stands out to you about how Jesus came into the world?

Would it make sense, based on how Jesus came into the world, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

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Matthew 1:1-2:12

Luke 1:1-2:38

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 3: What Was Jesus Like?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?", last week we asked "How did Jesus come into the world?"

Here's what we found. According to the Bible, when Jesus came into the world:

- His birth was the fulfillment of multiple prophecies, hundreds and even thousands of years before He came (Genesis 17:3-7, 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2, etc)
- He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a Virgin (Luke 1:30-33)
- He was born in time and space in history— 7 BC in the city of Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)
- He was born outside and placed into a manger (Luke 2:6-7)
- Not long after His birth, wise men came to worship Him and lavish Him with extravagant gifts, convinced of His unique identity (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12)

Today, we want to learn more about Jesus by asking "What was Jesus like?"

## WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

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1. He Was Utterly Unique—Jesus is more unique, more set apart, than anyone who has ever lived.

*Mark 1:9-11— In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

**What happened at the baptism of Jesus?**

**According to Mark, what did God say to Jesus at His baptism?**

**What are the implications of this?**

2. He Was Intrinsicly Authoritative— Jesus is more authoritative than anyone who has ever lived.

*Mark 1:21-22, 27— And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes... And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority!"*

**What does this passage say about Jesus' teaching?**

**How did people react to His teaching?**

There are two kinds of authority, delegated authority, and intrinsic authority. Delegated authority is authority that is given to someone based on their position. When authority is delegated to someone, they have authority in their position, but not in themselves. Intrinsic authority, on the other hand, is authority that comes from someone's nature, from who they are. This is how it was with Jesus. When He spoke and taught, there was such a weight and authority to it, that people were amazed and astonished. He taught them with power.

3. He Was Powerful yet Compassionate— Jesus is more powerful and more compassionate than anyone who has ever lived.

*Mark 1:29-34— And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with*

*a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.*

*Mark 1:40-42— And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*

**What did Jesus do in these verses?**

**How did Jesus heal Simon’s mother in law and the leper?**

**How would you describe Jesus’ disposition towards these who were in need?**

**4. He Was Genuinely Welcoming—Jesus is the most welcoming person who has ever lived.**

*Mark 2:13-15— (Jesus) went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.*

**Who did Jesus call to follow Him?**

**What was the deal with tax collectors in first century Judea?**

**What ensues after Jesus called Levi?**

**Who was there?**

## 5. He Was Intellectually Brilliant— Jesus is the most brilliant man who has ever lived.

*Mark 6:1-3—He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?”*

**What is the reaction of the people to Jesus’ teaching?**

**What was it that astonished them?**

## 6. He Was Deeply Humble— Jesus is the most humble man has ever lived.

*Mark 10:35-37, 42-45— And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory”... And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**What did James and John want?**

**What does Jesus say about true greatness?**

**Why did Jesus say He came?**

**What does this mean?**

7. He Was Morally Perfect— Jesus is the only perfect man who has ever lived.

*Matthew 5:17— Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*

*Hebrews 4:15— For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

**What do these verses say about Jesus with regard to sin?**

**What do these verses say about Jesus with regard to righteousness?**

**What conclusions can be made when these two things are put together?**

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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**What was Jesus like?**

- He was utterly unique (Mark 1:9-11)
- He was intrinsically authoritative (Mark 1:21-22, 27)
- He was powerful yet compassionate (Mark 1:29-34, 40-42)
- He was genuinely welcoming (Mark 2:13-15)
- He was intellectually brilliant (Mark 6:1-3, see also Mark 2:23-28, 11:27-33, 12:13-27)
- He was deeply humble (Mark 10:35-37, 42-45)
- He was morally perfect (Matthew 5:17, Hebrews 4:15, see also 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5)

## TO DISCUSS

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What most stands out to you about what Jesus like?

Would it make sense, based on what the Bible says Jesus was like, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

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Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 4: What Did Jesus Do?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so that you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?", last week we asked "What was Jesus like?"

Here's what we found. According to the Bible, Jesus was:

- Utterly unique (Mark 1:9-11)
- Intrinsically authoritative (Mark 1:21-22, 27)
- Powerful yet compassionate (Mark 1:29-34, 40-42)
- Genuinely welcoming (Mark 2:13-15)
- Intellectually brilliant (Mark 6:1-3, see also Mark 2:23-28, 11:27-33, 12:13-27)
- Deeply humble (Mark 10:35-37, 42-45)
- Morally perfect (Matthew 5:17, Hebrews 4:15, see also 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5)

Today, we want to learn more about Jesus by asking "What did Jesus Do?"

## WHAT DID JESUS DO?

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It is impossible to summarize what Jesus did in just a few paragraphs. The gospel of John says it best— "Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). The categories below are an effort to summarize some of the most important things that Jesus did, especially as it relates to who He is.

## 1. Jesus Exercised Power Over Nature

*Mark 4:35-41— On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

**How would you describe what Jesus did in this account?**

**According to the Old Testament, who has power over nature, especially storms?**

*Psalm 89:8-9— O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD, with Your faithfulness around You? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.*

*Psalm 107:28-29— Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.*

**What does this reveal about who Jesus is?**

## 2. Jesus Exercised Power Over Satan

*Mark 5:1-20— They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me,*

*Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.*

*The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. And they began to beg Jesus[d] to depart from their region. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.*

**How would you describe what Jesus did in this account?**

**How did the demon-possessed man refer to Jesus?**

**Why would the enemies of Jesus refer to Him this way if this was not who He is?**

**What does this reveal about who Jesus is?**

### 3. Jesus Exercised Power Over Sickness

*Mark 5:21-34— And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come*

*and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And he went with him.*

*And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”*

**How would you describe what happened in this account?**

**According to the Old Testament, who has power over sickness?**

*Exodus 15:27— ...For I am the Lord, your healer.*

*Exodus 23:25— You shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you.*

*Psalms 103:2-3— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases...*

**What does this reveal about who Jesus is?**

## 4. Jesus Exercised Power Over Death

*Mark 5:36-43— While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had*

entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**How would you describe what Jesus did in this account?**

**According to the Old Testament, who has power over death?**

*Deuteronomy 32:39—See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god beside Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal, and there is none that can deliver out of My hand.*

*1 Samuel 2:6— The Lord kills and brings to life; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

**What does this reveal about who Jesus is?**

## 5. Jesus Forgave Sins

*Mark 2:1-12— And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But 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, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them*

*all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”*

**How would you describe what Jesus did in this account?**

**According to the Old Testament, who alone can forgive sins?**

*Psalm 103:2-3— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases...*

*Psalm 130:3-4— If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.*

**Why is this the case?**

**What does this reveal about who Jesus is?**

## 6. Jesus Accepted Worship

*Matthew 2:10-11— When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

*Matthew 14:33— And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”*

*Matthew 28:18— Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.*

**How would you describe what Jesus did in these accounts?**

**According to the Old Testament, who alone can receive worship?**

*Matthew 4:8-10— Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be*

*gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”*

In verse 10, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13, saying that God alone should be worshiped. Yet, on multiple occasions, Jesus received worship.

**What does this reveal about who Jesus is?**

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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**What did Jesus do?**

- He exercised power over nature (Mark 4:35-41)
- He exercised power over Satan (Mark 5:1-20)
- He exercised power over sickness (Mark 5:21-34)
- He exercised power over death (Mark 5:36-43)
- He forgave sins (Mark 2:1-12)
- He accepted worship (Matthew 2:10-11, Matthew 14:33, Matthew 28:18)

According to the Old Testament, these actions were reserved for God alone.

## TO DISCUSS

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**What most stands out to you about what Jesus did?**

**Would it make sense, based on what Jesus did, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?**

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

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The Gospel of John (See especially John 20:30-31)

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 5: What Did Jesus Teach?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so that you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?", last week we asked "What did Jesus Do?"

Here's what we found. According to the Bible, Jesus:

- He exercised power over nature (Mark 4:35-41)
- He exercised power over Satan (Mark 5:1-20)
- He exercised power over sickness (Mark 5:21-34)
- He exercised power over death (Mark 5:36-43)
- He forgave sins (Mark 2:1-12)
- He accepted worship (Matthew 2:10-11, Matthew 14:33, Matthew 28:18)

According to the Old Testament, these actions were reserved for God alone.

Today, we want to learn more about Jesus by asking "What did Jesus Teach?"

## WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?

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In the same way that it is impossible to include all that Jesus did in a few paragraphs, so it is equally impossible to summarize all that Jesus taught in a few paragraphs. The categories below are by no means exhaustive, but they are an effort to summarize many of the main points of His teaching, especially as it relates to who He is.

## 1. That the Kingdom of God Has Arrived with Him

*Mark 1:14-15— Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

*Luke 4:16-21— And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*

**What does Jesus communicate in these passages?**

## 2. That Love for God and Others Is of First Importance

*Matthew 22:34-40—But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

**According to Jesus, what are God’s most important commandments?**

**Why is this significant?**

### 3. That God Is His Very Own Father and That God Worked Directly Through Him

*John 5:19–21, 23b—So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will...Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”*

*John 14:11—Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.*

**Why is it significant that Jesus called God His own Father?**

### 4. That the Scriptures Are Ultimately About Him

*John 5:39–40—You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

*Luke 24:44— Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

**What does Jesus teach in these verses?**

### 5. That God Requires Moral Perfection

*Matthew 5:20—For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

*Matthew 5:48— You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

**What does Jesus teach in these verses?**

## 6. That Heaven and Hell Are Real and that Eternal Life Depends on Our Response to Him

*Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46—When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels’...And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*

*John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:36—Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

*John 6:40—For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*

**According to what Jesus taught the first passage above, what are the two eternal destinies await each person?**

**According to what Jesus taught in John 3:16, 3:36, and 6:40, what is the only way for someone attain eternal life?**

## 7. That He Must Die for Sins and Rise Again

*Mark 8:31—And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

*Mark 9:30-32—They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.*

*Mark 10:32b-34—And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”*

**What did Jesus teach on these three different occasions?**

Next week, we will see that His death took place just as He had taught.

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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**What did Jesus teach?**

- That the Kingdom of God arrived with Him (Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:16-21)
- That love for God and others is of first importance (Matthew 22:34-40)
- That God is His very own Father and that God worked directly through Him (John 5:19-21, 23b, John 14:11)
- That the Scriptures are ultimately about Him (John 5:39-40, Luke 24:44)
- That God requires moral perfection (Matthew 5:20, Matthew 5:48)
- That Heaven and Hell are real and that eternal life depends on our response to Him (Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46, John 3:16, John 3:36, John 6:40)
- That He must die for sins and rise again (Mark 8:31, Mark 9:30-32, Mark 10:32b-34)

## TO DISCUSS

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**What most stands out to you about what Jesus taught?**

Would it make sense, based on what Jesus taught, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?

## FURTHER READING

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Matthew 5-7

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 6: Why Did Jesus Die?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so that you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?", last week we asked "What Did Jesus Teach?"

Here's what we found. According to the Bible, Jesus taught:

- That the Kingdom of God arrived with Him (Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:16-21)
- That love for God and others is of first importance (Matthew 22:34-40)
- That God is His very own Father and that God worked directly through Him (John 5:19-21, 23b, John 14:11)
- That the Scriptures are ultimately about Him (John 5:39-40, Luke 24:44)
- That God requires moral perfection (Matthew 5:20, Matthew 5:48)
- That Heaven and Hell are real and that eternal life depends on our response to Him (Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46, John 3:16, John 3:36, John 6:40)
- That He must die for sins and rise again (Mark 8:31, Mark 9:30-32, Mark 10:32b-34)

Today, we want to learn more about Jesus by asking "Why Did Jesus Die?"

## WHY DID JESUS DIE?

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In the same way it is impossible to put into one lesson all that Jesus did and taught, so it is impossible to put into one lesson the many reasons why Jesus died (for a more extensive look into this check out *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die* by John Piper). But it is certainly possible to articulate the primary reasons why He died. In this lesson, we will look at five reasons why Jesus died, moving from the most human of those reasons to the most divine.

## 1. He Was Unjustly Accused, Tried, and then Killed by His Opponents

*John 11:45-53— Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.*

**According to these verses, what happened to Jesus?**

*Acts 2:22-23— Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

**In the first Christian sermon ever preached, who did Peter charge with the death of Christ, humanly speaking?**

## 2. He Was Fulfilling Scripture

All throughout the Old Testament, there were indicators that a death was necessary in order to atone for sins. Nowhere is the death of Jesus more clearly predicted than in the Old Testament passages Psalm 22, which was written about 1000 years before Jesus, and Isaiah 53, written about 700 years before Jesus.

*Psalm 22:1a, 6-8, 14-18—My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; “He trusts in the Lord;*

*let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.*

**How does Psalm 22 begin and why does it ring a bell?**

**What stands out from Psalm 22 that points us to the crucifixion of Christ?**

*Isaiah 53:4-6— Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**According to these verses in Isaiah 53, what would be happening when Jesus died?**

### 3. He Was Voluntarily Laying Down His Life

Even though Jesus was unjustly accused, and even though this was the eternal plan of God as expressed in the Bible, Jesus willingly chose to lay down His life.

*John 10:14-15, 18— I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.*

*Matthew 26:53-54— Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?*

*John 15:13—Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down His life for His friends.*

**What is clearly communicated in the verses above?**

These passages make it clear that Jesus didn't simply die at the hands of an angry mob or even solely at the hands the Sovereign God, He willingly laid down His life.

#### 4. He Was Meeting the Requirements of God's Justice and Putting God's Righteousness on Display

So humanly speaking, Jesus was killed by His enemies. Divinely speaking, it was God's plan. From Jesus' standpoint, He was laying down His life. But why? Well, one reason was to put God's righteousness on display and to meet the requirements of His justice.

*Romans 6:23a— The wages of sin is death...*

**According to this verse, what is the fair penalty for our sins?**

*Romans 3:22b-26— For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**What is a propitiation?**

**Verse 25 says that the putting forward of Jesus as a propitiation shows God's righteousness or justice. How so?**

*"Before we can see the cross as something done for us, we must see it as something done by us." - John Stott*

## 5. He Was Securing Our Acceptance with God

So humanly speaking, Jesus was killed by His enemies. Divinely speaking, it was God's plan. From Jesus' standpoint, He laid down His life. He did this to meet the requirements of God's justice and to put God's righteousness on display. But perhaps most importantly for us, He did this to secure our acceptance with God for eternity.

*Romans 3:22b-26— For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**What does it mean to be justified?**

**How do these verses say that someone is justified?**

*Romans 6:23— The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Why would God do this?**

*Romans 5:8— ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*1 John 4:10— In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**According to these verses, what is God's motive for sending His Son to save us?**

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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### **Why did Jesus die?**

- He was unjustly accused, tried, and then killed His opponents (John 11:45-53, Acts 2:22-23)
- He was fulfilling Scripture (Psalm 22:1a, 6-8, 14-18, Isaiah 53:4-6)
- He was voluntarily laying down His life (John 10:14-15, 18, Matthew 26:53-54, John 15:13)
- He was meeting the requirements of God's justice and putting God's righteousness on display (Romans 6:23a, 3:22b-26)
- He was securing our acceptance with God (Romans 3:22b-26, 6:23)
- Why did He do it?
- Because God loves us (Romans 5:8, John 3:16, 1 John 4:10)

## TO DISCUSS

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**What most stands out to you about why Jesus died?**

**Would it make sense, based on what the Bible teaches about the death of Jesus, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?**

## FURTHER READING

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Isaiah 53

Romans 5:1-11

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Colossians 1:15-23

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 7: Did Jesus Really Rise From the Dead?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so that you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?", last week we asked "Why Did Jesus Die?"

Here's what we found. According to the Bible, Jesus died because:

- He was unjustly accused, tried, and then killed by His opponents (John 11:45-53, Acts 2:22-23)
- He was fulfilling Scripture (Psalm 22:1a, 6-8, 14-18, Isaiah 53:4-6)
- He was voluntarily laying down His life (John 10:14-15, 18, Matthew 26:53-54, John 15:13)
- He was meeting the requirements of God's justice and putting God's righteousness on display (Romans 6:23a, 3:22b-26)
- He was securing our acceptance with God (Romans 3:22b-26, 6:23)
- Why did He do it?
- Because God loves us (Romans 5:8, John 3:16, 1 John 4:10)

Today, we want to learn more about Jesus by asking "Did Jesus really rise from the dead?"

## DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

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To put it bluntly, if Jesus didn't really rise from the dead, Christianity is worthless. This was the apostle Paul's reasoning in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19: "... And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins... If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." His logic was simple. If Christ didn't rise from the dead, our greatest enemies— sin and death— have not really been dealt with at the cross. If Jesus is still in the grave, what proof is there that our sins have been paid for? Without

the resurrection, of all people, we Christians would be the most pitiful of all. Unless of course Jesus really did rise from the dead.

But did He? What does the evidence say? Today we will look at seven commonly known facts surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus as well as the most common explanations of His empty tomb and missing body. Then, based on the information, you can decide which explanation makes the most sense of the evidence.

## 1. Jesus Died by Crucifixion

*John 19:31-34— Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.*

**According to this passage (not to mention the other Gospel passages, Matthew 27:45-50, Mark 15:33-39, Luke 23:44-49) what happened to Jesus on the cross?**

## 2. Jesus Was Buried Securely

*Matthew 27:57-61— When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

**According to these verses, what happened to the body of Jesus after He died?**

*Matthew 27:62-66— The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

**According to these verses, what happened to the tomb?**

**Putting the first two facts together, what can we say with certainty?**

### 3. On the Third Day After Jesus’ Death, His Tomb was Empty

*Mark 16:1-8— When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

**Regardless of whether or not you accept the appearance of the angel included in these verses, what basic fact is clear from this passage (as well as by secular historians)?**

*Matthew 28:11-15— While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him*

*and keep you out of trouble.” So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.*

**In addition to the followers of Jesus testifying to the empty tomb, according to this passage, who else affirmed that the tomb was empty and Jesus’ body was missing?**

**Further, who were the first witness at the tomb and why is this important?**

#### 4. The Eleven Disciples Were ALL Either Killed or Exiled for Their Allegiance to Jesus

The night of His betrayal, consider Jesus’ words to His disciples.

*John 16:32— Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone.*

**According to this verse, what did Jesus say would happen to His disciples?**

**According to Scriptural evidence (see Acts 7, 12:1-2, Revelation 1:9) and Church history, all eleven disciples were either martyred for their faith in Christ, or tortured and exiled late in their life. What do you think changed?**

**What is the Biblical explanation for this?**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-5— For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*

(You can read about these appearances in Matthew 28:16-20, John 20:19-29).

## 5. The Conversion of Paul

*Acts 8:1-3 (This passage picks up immediately after the first Christian was killed)—And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.*

**Who is Saul?**

**How would you describe Paul's relationship to Christians in these verses?**

**Not long after this, and throughout the rest of the New Testament, how would you describe Paul?**

**What is the Biblical explanation for this?**

## 6. The Leadership of James, the Brother of Jesus

*John 7:2-5— Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." For not even his brothers believed in him.*

**When we first meet James in the Bible (the younger half-brother of Jesus), how would you describe his attitude toward his brother?**

**The next time we see James he is the leader of the Church in Jerusalem (see Acts 15:12-21). What is the Biblical explanation for this?**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4,7— For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...Then he appeared to James...*

## 7. The Global Spread of Christianity

*Acts 1:15— In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120)...*

**According to Acts 1:15, how many believers were there shortly after the death of Jesus?**

One generation later, despite the absence of money, real estate, or leadership training, there were tens of thousands of believers, if not more. The number reached into the millions within a couple of more generations. In 325 AD, Christianity had become so widespread that it became the official religion of the Roman Empire, and yet it has survived long since the fall of the Roman Empire. Today, over 2 billion people all over the planet profess faith in Christ.

**What is the Biblical explanation for this?**

These are seven basic facts surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. These facts (not necessarily their explanations) are widely accepted by Christians and non-Christians alike.

## ALTERNATIVE VIEWS

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So what are the possible explanations that have been put forward by secular opponents?

Below is a summary of the six most common explanations or theories that have been given throughout the last 2,000 years by secular opponents.

## 1. The Disciples Stole the Body

The earliest explanation put forward by the opponents of Christianity was that the disciples stole the body (see Matthew 28:11–15).

### **Why is this theory problematic, considering the facts above?**

First, could the frightened disciples have overtaken the Roman guard and stole the body?

Second, if they had stolen the body, would they all have been willing to be tortured and killed for something they knew was a lie? People die for things that are not true, but rarely will people die for something they know for a fact is not true.

Third, could a stolen body of Jesus really account for the transformation we see in Paul and James.

Facts 4, 5, and 6 all make this explanation difficult to accept.

## 2. The Jews or Romans Stole the Body

The next common theory was that the Jews or Romans stole the body.

### **Why is this theory problematic, considering the facts above?**

First, if the Jews or Romans had stolen the body, they would have created the exact problem they were trying to avoid (see Matthew 27:62–65).

Further, Jews and Romans both were hostile in their opposition to the spread of Christianity— the Jews for religious purposes and Romans for political ones. Once Christianity began to spread so rapidly in those early days in Jerusalem (see for example Acts 2:41, 4:4), if the Jews or Romans had stolen the body, in order to put an end to Christianity, all they would have had to do is produce the dead body of Jesus.

Last, if the body had been stolen by Jews or Romans, there would still be no way to account for the transformed lives of Paul and James.

Common sense along with facts 5 and 6 make this explanation difficult to accept.

### 3. The Swoon Theory

This theory puts forward the explanation that Jesus never really died, but was only badly wounded.

**Why is this theory problematic, considering the facts above?**

First, the Romans were professional executioners, and Biblical and extra-Biblical history communicates that Jesus really did die by crucifixion. Second, could a badly wounded man have broken out of a tomb sealed shut and secured by soldiers?

Third, would a beaten and bloodied half-dead man really have convinced the disciples to stake their lives on His resurrection? How about His own skeptical brother James?

Fourth, how could Jesus have appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus in a way that would have convinced him to give his life to this?

Facts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 make this explanation difficult to accept.

### 4. The Disciples Hallucinated

This theory suggests that those who “witnessed” the resurrected Jesus were actually hallucinating.

**Why is this theory problematic, considering the facts above?**

First, in order for this explanation to work, the hallucination would have had to have been very wide spread. Jesus appeared to Peter separately from the eleven. He appeared to James separately from the eleven. He appeared to Paul separately as well. Does it really make sense for all eleven disciples, plus converts like Paul and James to all have had the same hallucination and to be willing to risk their lives, to even die for it?

Further, this makes no sense of the empty tomb. Even the enemies of Jesus knew that the body was missing. A hallucination doesn’t explain the basic facts of an empty tomb and a missing body.

Facts 3, 4, 5, and 6 make this explanation difficult to accept.

## 5. A Spiritual Resurrection

This explanation has been most commonly put forward by liberal theologians. This view suggests that Jesus never really did physically rise from the dead. Instead, His resurrection was a spiritual one, not a bodily one.

### **Why is this theory problematic, considering the facts above?**

First, this explanation fails to deal with the basic facts of an empty tomb and a missing body.

Second, how does this account for the disciples going from frightened wimps on the night that Jesus was betrayed to men willing to suffer and die for Him?

Third, could a spiritual resurrection (whatever that means), really change James from a skeptic to the leader of the Church or Paul from a terrorist to a missionary-martyr?

Facts 3, 4, 5, and 6 make this explanation difficult to accept.

## 6. It Was a Legend

This is one of the more common views today. This theory suggests that Jesus didn't really rise from the dead, but that the legend around Jesus slowly grew over long periods of time to become what it is today.

### **Why is this theory problematic, considering the facts above?**

First, it offers no explanation of the empty tomb or missing body. A denial is not evidence.

Secondly, the disciples preached about Christ's resurrection within weeks of the events. The message didn't develop over time. It was the primary message of the early Church since its very beginning.

Third, this explanation fails to make any sense of the disciples who went on to die for their faith in Christ or for the conversion of Paul and James. Can legend really transform men or give them courage in the face of death?

Facts 3, 4, 5, and 6 make this explanation difficult to accept.

The secular explanations of these facts fail to deal with the actual evidence.

## CONCLUSION

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According to the Bible, a number of very important realities hang on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.

- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that He is who He has claimed to be (John 20:24-31).
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that His death in our place was both sufficient and accepted by God— His offer of forgiveness is legitimate (Romans 4:24-25).
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that life after death really is a reality (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that He is alive and that we can know Him (Revelation 1:18, John 17:3).

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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### **Did Jesus really rise from the dead?**

The facts surrounding Jesus' death are clear:

- He died by crucifixion (John 19:31-34)
- He was buried securely (Matthew 27:57-61)
- On the third day after His death, His tomb was empty (Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:11-15)
- The eleven disciples were ALL either killed or exiled for their allegiance to Jesus (Acts 12:1-2, Revelation 1:9, Church History)
- Paul was converted from a persecutor of the Church to its greatest missionary (Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-22, 13:1-28:31)
- James went from a skeptic to the leader of the Church in Jerusalem (John 7:2-5, Acts 15:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:7)
- Christianity spread globally in a very short amount of time (see the book of Acts)

If Jesus rose from the dead, we can be certain of the following:

- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that He is who He has claimed to be (John 20:24-31)
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that His death in our place was both sufficient and accepted by God— His offer of forgiveness is legitimate (Romans 4:24-25)
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that life after death really is a reality (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that He is alive and that we can know Him (Revelation 1:18, John 17:3)

## TO DISCUSS

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**What most stands out to you about regarding the resurrection of Jesus?**

**Would it make sense, based on what the Bible teaches about the resurrection of Jesus, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?**

## FURTHER READING

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1 Corinthians 15

Matthew 28

Mark 16

Luke 24

John 20-21

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

*Week 8: What Will You Do With Jesus?*

## INTRODUCTION

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In an effort to honestly consider Jesus Christ so that you can ultimately answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?", over the course of the last seven weeks we have asked many smaller questions to help us arrive at His identity: "Where was Jesus before He came?", "How did Jesus come into the world?", "What was Jesus like?", "What did Jesus Do?", "What did Jesus teach?", "Why did Jesus die?", and then last week, "Did Jesus really rise from the dead?"

Here's what we found. The Bible clearly presents Jesus as the unique Son of God who died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins and who rose again from the dead. Further, the facts surrounding Jesus' death are clear:

- Jesus died by crucifixion (John 19:31-34)
- He was buried securely (Matthew 27:57-61)
- On the third day after His death, His tomb was empty (Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:11-15)
- The eleven disciples Were ALL either killed or exiled for their allegiance to Jesus (Acts 12:1-2, Revelation 1:9, Church History)
- Paul was converted from a persecutor of the Church to its greatest missionary (Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-22, 13:1-28:31)
- James, the brother of Jesus, was transformed from a skeptic to the leader of the Church in Jerusalem (John 7:2-5, Acts 15:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:7)
- Christianity spread globally in a very short amount of time (see the book of Acts)

All this is hard to make sense of apart from a literal, physical, resurrection. The secular explanations surrounding Christ's resurrection fail to deal with this evidence.

If indeed Jesus did rise from the dead, the following becomes certain:

- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that He is who He has claimed to be (John 20:24-31)
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that His death in our place was sufficient and accepted by God— His offer of forgiveness is legitimate (Romans 4:24-25)

- A resurrected Jesus guarantees life after death really is a reality (1 Corinthians 15:20–23).
- A resurrected Jesus guarantees that He is alive and we can know Him today (Revelation 1:18, John 17:3)

## WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH HIM?

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Today, as we close out this study, we want to ask the next logical question—“What will you do with Him?” or, “What does this mean for me?” Now that you have this information, how are you going to respond to it? Coming to a decision about Jesus Christ and considering a relationship with Him is not altogether different than coming to a decision about anything or anyone else. The following three steps provide guidance on how to proceed.

### 1. Check Him Out

*John 1:35–51— The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).*

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig*

*tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*

**In these verses, Jesus gives an invitation to Andrew and Peter that Phillip also extends to Nathanael. What is it?**

**In common terms, how would you describe the first steps of these disciples in coming to a decision about Jesus?**

## HOW DO WE DO THIS TODAY?

### *A. Read through one of the Gospels.*

*Romans 10:17— So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

**According to this verse, how does faith in Christ come?**

### *B. Spend time with someone who really follows Him.*

*John 4:39-42— Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”*

**According to these verses, what was the first step for many of the Samaritans who put their faith in Christ?**

**When you are interested in learning more about someone, some place, or something, what is one of the first steps you generally take?**

**If you want to know more about Jesus, then, what is one obvious step?**

## 2. Count the Cost

The next thing someone ought to do after checking Jesus out is to count the cost of following Him. There was a significant cost of following Jesus 2,000 years ago, and there's a significant cost to following Him today.

### A. *The Cost of Coming*

*Matthew 16:24— Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’*

**According to this verse, what does Jesus demand of His followers?**

**What do you think Jesus means by this?**

Before anyone comes to Jesus and commits to Him, they should count the cost. Is it worth it? Am I really willing to surrender everything to Him? Am I really willing to put my life, my dreams, my plans, my eternity in His hands? Am I willing to be mistreated because of my allegiance to Him? There is a cost to coming. Anyone who comes after Him must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Him. Following Jesus is not for cowards.

### B. *The Cost of Not Coming*

*Matthew 16:25-26—For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*

**According to these verses, what is the cost of not coming to Jesus?**

**What do you think Jesus means by this?**

## 3. Commit to Him

Once someone has checked Jesus out and counted the cost of following Him (and of not following Him), there is one final step to take. If you are convinced

that Jesus is who He says He is and that He alone can make you right with God and secure your eternity, then the next step is to commit to Him. This includes three simple steps, as easy as A,B,C.

### **A. Admit your sin to Him**

*Romans 3:10-12, 20— As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one”... For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

*1 John 1:9— If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**According to these verses, what is the first step in committing your life to Christ?**

### **B. Believe that He died for you**

*Romans 3:23-25a— For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

*Romans 10:9-10— If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

**According to these verses, what is the next step in receiving God’s salvation?**

### **C. Commit your life to Him**

*Matthew 16:24— Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*

**According to this verse, what is the final step in coming to Christ?**

## **A WORD OF ADVICE**

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These three steps— admitting your sin, believing that Jesus the Son of God died and rose for you, and committing your life to Him— are usually best expressed

in an honest prayer to God where you simply tell Him those things, confessing your trust in Him and desire to follow Him. He promises that the moment you do this with genuine faith, not only does He forgive all your sins and guarantee your eternal life, but He also sends His own Spirit to live in you, to comfort you, to help you, to convict you of sin, to aid in your understanding of the Bible, and to give you new desires to love God and others.

If you would like help with this, or if you have put your faith in Christ but have never told anyone, tell a Christian friend or the leader of this study. Jesus has a wonderful promise for you! “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33).

## CONCLUSION

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### **So what will you do with Him?**

If Jesus' claims are true—

- That He really is the eternal Son of God, even God Himself (John 1:14, 5:19, 8:58),
- That He really is the only way to a relationship with the Father (John 14:6),
- That He really is the only way to escape God's judgment (John 3:36),
- That He really is the only way to salvation and eternal life (John 3:14-17),
- That a relationship with Him really is the only way to lasting satisfaction and fulfillment (John 6:35, 10:10b)—

Then each person must make up their mind about Him. We cannot remain on the fence. In the end, not to decide is to decide.

### **Who do you say that He is?**

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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- First, check Him out (John 1:35-51)
  - Read through one of the Gospels (Romans 10:17)
  - Spend time with someone who really follows Him (John 4:39-42)
- Second, count the cost (Matthew 16:24-26)
  - Count the cost of coming to Him (Matthew 16:24)

- Count the cost of not coming to Him (Matthew 16:25-26)
- Third, commit to Him (Mark 10:28)
  - Admit your sin to Him (Romans 3:10-12,20, 1 John 1:9)
  - Believe that He died for you (Romans 3:23-25, 10:9-10)
  - Commit your life to Him (Matthew 16:24)

## TO DISCUSS

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**What most stands out to you about how to come to Christ?**

**Would it make sense, based on what the Bible teaches about how we are to respond to Jesus, to conclude that Jesus was simply a good, moral teacher?**

## FURTHER READING

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Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts