

Part 2 - Who is Jesus?

A Study

Looking at Jesus

Today we continue delving into looking at Jesus – and trying to answer His question to us:

- “Who do you say I am?”

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ was a first century Jewish man.

His name is indicative of His ministry:

- “Jesus” – is derived from the OT Hebrew “Jeshua” (or Joshua)
- Meaning – “God delivers or saves His people”
- Christ means “anointed” or “messiah”
- **The anointed one of God come to deliver or save His people**

Jesus’ Appearance – 1st Century Palestinian Jew

Meek, mild, soft, strong, happy, glad, pensive, piercing, serious

 Here’s a smattering:



 This is what a typical middle eastern, Palestinian Jew would have looked like, at around the time of Jesus:



Jesus Remains a Compelling Person

Poll Info:

- Nielsen Poll (2009) showed around 70% of Australians believe in God

Jesus of Pop Culture

We see that Jesus appears in pop-culture:

- Music & Movies
- TV shows (Simpson, SouthPark, Duck Dynasty)
- Documentaries
- Discussed on talk shows

Celebrities Comment

We reviewed some quotes from public figures :

- Mikhail Gorbachev, Adolf Hitler, John Lennon, Björn Ulvaeus (ABBA)
- Pamela Anderson

The Article Announced

“...the model-turned-actress has announced that she and Jesus have forged a groundbreaking new relationship. Under the terms of the relationship, the Lord will act as Ms. Anderson's "homeboy" - an urban slang term used to signify a close friend ...”

 **Pamela Anderson**

"All these Christians are always saying you need to have a personal relationship with the Lord," said Ms. Anderson at a press conference announcing the relationship. "Well, I do: he's my homeboy! I'm not ashamed to tell the world that even though I think Christians are intolerant and boring, I still think Jesus is somewhat cool. In a trendy sort of way."

Jesus of the Cults

People say that all religions teach the same things – not about Jesus!
Many of these cults spun out from orthodox Christianity

- Liberal Christian (good, moral teacher)
- Jehovah's Witness (one of the gods, Archangel Michael)
- Mormon (brother of Lucifer)
- New Ager (anything you want him to be)
- Scientologist (a Thetan deposit 1M years ago)

Jesus of the Main Religions

- Buddhists - Jesus was a Buddha type, an enlightened master
- Hindus - enlightened being; another of the gods
- Islam - Isa the prophet, lesser than Mohammed, not the Son of God

Jesus' Words about Himself

So you can see it's important that we get a correct understanding of who Jesus is.

- And Who **He** says He is

During these talks we will see that Jesus said, "I am the eternal God":

- Repeatedly
- Emphatically
- Consistently
- Unapologetically

Last week 6 points of reasoning

Today we look at another 6.

1. Jesus Came Down from Heaven

John 6:38-42

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

2. Good Man

Mark 10:18-19

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good - except God alone.

3. Son of Man

Dan 7:13-14

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a SON OF MAN, a coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

4. Jesus' Miracles

John 10:36-39

Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though

you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

5. Jesus Said He was God

Mark 14:61

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

John 8 & John 10

6. Under Interrogation About Jesus’ Claim

Matthew 26:63-65

Then the high priest stood up and said ... “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

“It’s just as you have said” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

7. Jesus Said He was Sinless

Can you imagine saying this?

- Never uttered a bad word – I’ve never lied
- Never taken anything didn’t belong to me
- Never looked at a woman with impure thoughts
- Never worked from an impure or selfish motivation
- Never hurt another person

Some of you have had bad thoughts in the last 15mins.



Dicky – and his confessions ☺

- If I said that I'm sinless ... You'd say that guy needs some meds.

 **John 8:56**

Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

Extraordinary claim – to say that you are without sin!

8. Jesus Forgave Sin

Not only did He claim his life to be without sin, but He said he could forgive sin:

Other religious leaders will teach you about:

- doing good works
- developing good karma & reincarnating (as a musician or Cats supporter)
- confessing your sins to the priest
- penance
- purgatory
- mecca
- pilgrimage

Speaking to a sinful but repentant woman in

 **Luke 7:48**

And [Jesus] said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

This is astounding!

 **Psalm 51:4**

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight

We all sin against people:

- but all sin is ultimately against God
- treating each other badly is ultimately a violation of His standards

- As such only He has the right to forgive sin

 **Luke 5:20–21 (NKJV)**

And when [Jesus] saw their faith, he said, ‘Man, your sins are forgiven you.’ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, ‘Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’

An **audacious** thing to say - **unparalleled** by any religious leader.

- Not only do ***I have no sin***
- But I alone can ***forgive sin***

If he were not God, our sin simply could not be forgiven by him.

9. Jesus Taught People to Pray to Him as God

Prayer is how we mere mortals talk to God.

But Jesus Christ actually told us to pray to him, and he did so repeatedly.

 **John 14:13-14**

Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

 **John 15:7**

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

By doing so, Jesus was clearly stating that he is God.

- As a result of his teaching, people did pray to Jesus as God.

In Acts 7:59 while Stephen was being stoned:

- He prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

10. Jesus said He was the Judge

Jesus promised to judge all peoples as God.

Statistically speaking:

- Most people believe in heaven and hell (just ask “where is Hitler”)
- Most people also believe that they are going to heaven
- And it’s others that will go to hell

Ultimately, Jesus will make these decisions:

 **John 5:22-24 (NIV)**

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.

“I tell you the truth - whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

Other religions say that God will judge you – Jesus says “I will judge you!”

11. Jesus Said He Was the Only Way to Heaven

Not only did Jesus

- declare that he came down from heaven,
- also taught that he alone is the only way for anyone else to enter into heaven

Many religious and spiritual teachers:

- claim that they can point you to the path to heaven
- do not claim to **be** that path themselves

Jesus, in contrast, promised that he was the way to eternal life in heaven, saying in

 **John 14:6**

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

An astonishing claim:

- I am the **way** – singular and exclusive
- I am the **truth** – singular and exclusive
- I am the **life** – singular and exclusive

Jesus says emphatically, unequivocally, unambiguously, unconditionally:

“NO ONE ... comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus says it again:

 **John 11:23**

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”

It's simply the words of Jesus – your argument is with Him!

12. Jesus Receives Worship

A 1st century Jewish person living in Israel:

- knows the mosaic law
- knows that to receive worship from another person is a capital crime
- knows that they deserve capital punishment (stoning)

Jesus affirms this:

 **Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)**

Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

Then look what he does:

Matthew 28:9 (NKJV)

And as they (the women) went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

The disciples upon meeting up with Jesus after His resurrection:

Matthew 28:17 (NKJV)

When they saw Him, they worshiped Him

The blind man that Jesus healed:

John 9:38 (NKJV)

Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

Lots of other examples:

- after walking on the water

And finally the declaration of Thomas:

 **John 20:28 (NKJV)**

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus never refuted these statements:

- He never referred the worship to God
- He never admonished the people for idolatry
- He never quoted the 1st Commandment
- “Don’t you know that there is one God you should worship?”
- “Stop worshipping me – I’m not God!!”

Rather, he gladly received:

- the worship of people
- the words that affirmed who He was – “Lord & God”

In doing so, He was agreeing with and declaring **Himself to be God**.

12. Jesus Has Complete Authority & Supremacy

Jesus is supreme over all people:

- all races, genders, sexual orientation, nations, cultures, political parties

 **Matt 28:18**

All authority in heaven and on the earth has been given to me.

This means that Jesus rules over all:

- Angels in heaven & Demons in hell
- All religious faiths,
- intellectual thought
- All philosophical thought
- Over gays, straights, men, women, children, adults, seniors
- Kings, queens, princes, princesses
- Kingdoms, nations, parliaments, counties, councils

Jesus Still a Good Man?

So let's break it down – people say “Jesus is a really good guy’

- Really? Seriously? Is that what you think?

If Jesus was not God, can we call Jesus a ‘good guy’?

1. He said He came **from heaven**
2. He is the **only way** to get to **heaven**
3. declared that He was **without sin** – He lived a perfect life
4. said that He can **forgive your sins**
5. He should be **prayed to** – and can hear and answer your prayers
6. has complete **authority** over everything (on heaven and earth)
7. He will ultimately **judge** all things – including your life
8. He said He was **God**

Who Do You Say I Am?

Your options today are simple:

- Jesus was either a liar and/or a lunatic, or
- Jesus was in fact God, saviour and Lord

Everything hinges on this question:

 **Matthew 16:15**

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

The right response, is the one Thomas made “My Lord and My God!”

- That same opportunity is available to you today
- You can become a Christian today
- Ask Jesus to be your God
- Ask Him to forgive your sins
- Receive Him as your Lord and Saviour

 **John 1:12 (NIV)**

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

It's simple:

Receive + Believe = Become