

# Lesson 3: The Claims of Jesus Christ

## Introduction:

- How are you going to think about Jesus Christ? How are you going to respond to Jesus Christ?
- **Who is Jesus Christ?**
  - This is a question you can neither escape or avoid!
  - Either Jesus Christ was a false teacher, a lunatic, a prideful masochist, or
  - Jesus Christ is and was who He claimed to be, God in the flesh, the Son of God, the Son of Man, thus the "I AM", He was, is, and is to come, the way the truth and the life and what He taught and did are truth.
    - If Jesus Christ says who He claimed to be you either believe in the salvation unto eternal life only found in Christ, or you reject Him, opting for the first option or some lesser form, anything less than He really is, anything less than what He really did and don't believe and die in your sins and face eternal separation.
- **The God of the Bible**
  1. Creator
  2. Triune God
  3. Holy, Holy, Holy
  4. Good
  5. Love
  6. Saving
- **The Authority of Jesus Christ**
  - I AM THAT I AM
  - Authority over Devils
  - Authority over Sin & Disease
  - Authority over Creation

## Preview:

- **"Who do men say that I the Son of man am?"**
  - The Son of Man
  - The Son of God
  - One with the Father
  - "I AM"

## Sermon:

### Matthew 16:13-20

- **"Who do men say that I the Son of man am?"**
  - Near the farthest outpost of Israel, away from the Pharisees and the Sadducees (the leaders of the day) and their doctrinal leaven.

- It would be here that Jesus asks this most important question
- **"Son of Man"**
  - Most common expression Jesus had for Himself
  - Common expression for the Messiah
    - Daniel 7:13 - equal with God
- First, examination of what others were saying of Him
  - **John the Baptist** - many Jews believed He was the reincarnated John the Baptist
  - **Elijah** - many believed He was the reincarnated Elijah - who was to be sent before the establishment of God's kingdom (Mal. 4:5)
  - **Jeremiah** - another revered prophet risen again
  - **Pharisees** - in league with Satan (Matt. 10:25; 12:24)
  - Most, besides the leadership considered Jesus to be forerunner of the Messiah, but not Israel's prophesied Messiah.
    - Some have said:
      - I find no guilt in this man
      - I know men, and Jesus was no mere man
      - The unsurpassed
      - The highest model of religion
      - The guide of humanity
      - The greatest among the sons of men
      - A youth with God in His heart
      - The irreproachable one
      - Superstar
    - God in human flesh
- **"But whom say ye that I am?"**
  - The confession
    - **"Thou art the Christ"**
      - The Messiah, the long-awaited, promised redeemer, deliver, king of Israel
      - The disciples were taught to expect that which Christ will be in His second coming in His first coming
        - They expected a conquering hero and establish His kingdom
        - Instead, they witnessed His humility, subservience, lowliness, and meekness
  - Two and half years into His ministry
    - Not only the Son of Man, but the Son of God - the Creator of all\
- **Equal with God, One with the Father - John 5:17-24**
  - **Jesus' own testimony** (leaves you with no legitimate doubt about who is Jesus Christ)

- **John 6:62** - What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?
  - **John 8:23** - And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.
  - **John 16:28** - I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.
  - **John 17:5** - And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
  - **John 18:4-6** - Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? {5} They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. {6} As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.
  - **Mark 14:61-62** - But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? {62} And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.
    - They accused Him of blasphemy (John 10:36; 19:7)
- **Jesus claimed absolute equality with God**
- **John 10:30** - I and my Father are one.
  - **John 12:45** - And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.
  - **John 14:9-10** - Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? {10} Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.
  - To deny that Jesus claimed to be God is to deny the historical accuracy and truthfulness of the gospel records
    - Christ claims to be fully equal with God
      - **In Person** - Sabbath
      - **In Works** - raising the dead, judging
      - **In Power** - gives life
      - **In Judgment** - perfect harmony with God in judgment
        - 2 The. 1:7-8; Acts 17:31
      - **In Honor**
        - Honor of the Father is enhanced by the honor to Christ
        - Php. 2
    - Jesus is either God or immensely delusion at best and completely insane at

worst

- He is to be either dismissed as a foolish blasphemer, or
- His witness is true in which all honors ascribed to Him and God alone
- There is no middle ground

- **"I AM"**

- **John 6:35, 48 - "I am the bread of life"** - not physical bread, even from the miracle He just had performed, but food for the soul
- **John 8:12, 9:5 - "I am the light of the world"** - light of truth, in the midst of the darkness of error - darkness of ignorance, He is the light of wisdom, the darkness of sin He is the light of holiness, to the darkness of sorrow He is the light of joy to the darkness of death He is the light of life
- **John 10:7, 9 - "I am the door of the sheep"** - the way the truth and the life, the door in which there is abundant blessing, abundant pasture
- **John 10:11, 14 - "I am the good Shephard"** - not only willing to risk His life, but He laid down His life for His sheep
- **John 11:25 - "I am the resurrection and the life"** - John 11:25-26
- **John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life"** - exclusive, not other ways, not multiple ways
- **John 15:1 - "I am the true vine"** - those that abide in Him are those that can bear fruit

**Conclusion:**

- Such bold, exclusive, authoritative claims of Jesus Christ reveal one of two things
  - An egomaniac or the truth of Jesus' person, being the Son of Man, the Son of God, equal with the Father, the great I AM, the timeless One in which His works, His doctrine, and that which is to be known of Him, and in Him are to be believed.
  - Do not reject Jesus Christ and understand that you can be declared righteous in God's sight, forgiven all your sins, possess eternal life based upon Jesus Christ and His work of redemption for you.
  - For only God Himself could satisfy His own righteous standard in which we sinful man cannot measure up to - thus Christ, God in flesh, paid your penalty, and offers you a gift of salvation of which none other, no other god, prophet or religion teaches or offers.
  - Trust Christ as your only and all sufficient Savior and be saved today!