

A Powerful Beginning

Who is astonished when they hear advice?

Notes on “The Real Jesus”

Archaeological agreement

Marks of eyewitness account (vs. 29 and 36)

Historical plausibility (shows up at sundown, vs. 32)

His Ultimate Authority

His authoritative words

*Sermon on the Mount – “You have heard it said _____, but I say to you _____”
He never uses the formula of the prophets, “Thus says the Lord.”*

His authoritative power

No tricks, fancy prayers, sage, lines of salt, rituals, etc.

He shows himself sovereign over the powers and effects of evil.

The Source of His Authority

One person in two natures

“You are the Holy One of God.”

“He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.”

Fully God, fully man

Father, Son, and Spirit are not God showing up in different ways. (Modalism)

Jesus is not the greatest thing that God ever made, who then made everything else. (Arianism)

Father, Son, and Spirit are not independent gods. (Tritheism)

Jesus was not God in human appearance. (Docetism)

Jesus was not ‘adopted’ as God’s son at some point in his life. (Adoptionism)

The Father, Son, and Spirit are not components that together make up the one God. (Partialism)

Instead, the Father, Son, and Spirit are three persons which are all fully God.

Why it matters... who died for you?

It's very different if God made someone to come die for us, or if he came and did it himself!

The Unexpected Use of His Authority

Why does Jesus try to keep his identity a secret?

Foreshadowing the cross

John Lin points out how the expulsion of the demon (v. 26) is framed in the same language as the death of Christ, Mark 15:37. Yet the demon thrashes and convulses – Jesus goes silently, obediently, yielding to the will of God.

A costly ministry

He restores community, but loses his place.

He cleanses the unclean, but goes to the place of curse. (the wilderness)

The people gather with excitement, he withdraws to be alone.

Questions for Personal Study

1. How is Jesus' teaching different than advice? Why is it astonishing?
2. How would submitting yourself to Jesus' ultimate authority change your life?
3. Why does it matter that Jesus is fully God, fully man?
4. How do we see Jesus' ultimate mission foreshadowed in this passage?