

“The Final Exam!”

Session 1 VBS 2026
(Jesus is God’s Promised Son)
Matthew 16:13-20

Pastor Tim Trexler
May 17, 2026

**The deciding factor on your eternal
destination is your response to Jesus!**

¹⁹This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

**Sin not only leads to death but it
also produces darkness!**

**God creates us “male and female” (Genesis 1:27)
and He intends sexual activity only within the
covenant of heterosexual marriage!**

**(Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Leviticus 18:22;
Romans 26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11;
1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 7)**

**“Satan loves to tempt us into sin slowly,
turning the lights down gradually until our
eyes adjust to the dark.”**

**- Jim Denison, from article *19 Drag Queen Story Hours and
Nine LGBTQ Comic Books***

⁴in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Your mind is command central. Your mind
and thoughts formulate and regulate your
responses and actions!**

**If the enemy has come to steal,
Jesus came to reclaim.**

**If the enemy has come to kill,
Jesus came to bring life again.**

**If the enemy has come to destroy,
Jesus came to rebuild, renew and
restore in His name.**

**-from *You are more than you've been told;*
book by Hosanna Wong**

⁴²saying, “If you had known in this day, even you,
the things which make for peace! But now they
have been hidden from your eyes.

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His

eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be

dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷and in the

same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave

them over to a depraved mind, to do those things
which are not proper, ²⁹being filled with all
unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of
envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are
gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent,
arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient
to parents, ³¹without

understanding, untrustworthy, unloving,
unmerciful; ³²and although they know the
ordinance of God, that those who practice such
things are worthy of death, they not only do the
same, but also give hearty approval to those who
practice them.

**Why is there so much darkness and
spiritual blindness in the world?**

**It's because of sin, Satan and
God's sovereign judgment!**

4 Different Levels of Faith in Matthew Chapter 16

- 1. “No Faith” - 16:1-4**
- 2. “Little Faith” - 16:5-12**
- 3. “Saving Faith” - 16:13-20**
- 4. “Serving Faith” - 16:21-28**

- Warren Wiersbe

²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

To “deny yourself” means to give yourself wholly to the Lord. It means to emphatically and decisively say no to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.

To “take up your cross” does not mean to carry burdens or have problems. Neither is your sickness, trials or handicap your cross to bear.

To “take up your cross” means to identify with Christ in His rejection, shame, suffering and death. It means to pay the price to serve and honor Christ!

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He *said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter

answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

**Jesus asked, “Who do people say
that the Son of Man is?”**

4 False views about who Jesus is from church history:

- 1. Docetism - the belief that Jesus only seemed or appeared to have a body. They denied he came in the flesh.**
- 2. Gnosticism - the belief Christ came upon Jesus at His baptism but left Him prior to His death on the cross! Gnostics believe the body is evil and man's soul is trapped inside.**
- 3. Adoptionism - taught God took Jesus as a unique and special man on whom His power would rest.**
- 4. Modalism - believed God revealed Himself in three different ways: the Father became Jesus who, when He died, became the Holy Spirit.**

**Who do people in our
world/culture say Jesus is?**

- Unitarians - believe there was a time Jesus didn't exist, that He was a created being.**
- Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons also do not believe Jesus is God in the flesh; co-eternal, co-equal and co-existent with God the Father!**

George Barna reports 5 popular beliefs about Jesus in our day. (April 2025)

- 1. Vast majority of Americans believe Jesus was a real person.**
- 2. Younger generations are increasingly less likely to believe Jesus was God.**
- 3. Americans are divided on whether Jesus was sinless.**
- 4. Most Americans say they have made a commitment to Jesus Christ.**
- 5. People are conflicted between “Jesus” and “Good Deeds” as the way to Heaven.**

**The real pass/fail question Jesus asked, “But
who do you say I am?” (vs. 14)**

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16

Christ was not Jesus' last name. Jesus didn't come from the Christ family. Christ is a title. Christ means "Messiah", "the anointed one".

God's predicted and long awaited deliverer!

¹⁷And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

**Our responsibility and privilege is
proclamation; God's is revelation!**

We share the gospel, God reveals the gospel.

Peter's supreme confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

**Jesus is literally the God-man! One person
with two natures—
100% God and 100% human.**

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The truth about Jesus as revealed in scripture:

- 1. The second person of the triune God was truly incarnated. The Son of God actually took on the whole of human nature.**
- 2. Jesus Christ was one person who possessed the totality of both the divine and human natures.**
- 3. The result of the incarnation was the God-man Jesus Christ. He was not a double being, a compound being, or a hybrid being. Our Lord Jesus Christ was one person, complete in His deity and perfect in His humanity.**

4. Neither Christ's deity nor His humanity was compromised or diminished in the incarnation. Each nature retained its own integrity and genuineness.

5. The divine nature and the human nature came together in the one person, Jesus Christ. This union was real, supernatural, personal, inseparable, and permanent. Jesus is still the God-man who is in heaven "at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3) and "always lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25).

6. The whole of Christ's work—all He does and has done—must be attributed to His person and not exclusively to either His divine or human nature.

7. Jesus of Nazareth came to be only by means of the incarnation. There was a time when Jesus of Nazareth did not exist, but there has never been a time when God the Son did not exist.

-Dr. Daniel Akin

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus asks you, “Who do you say that I am?”

Application:

1. Ask at least three people this week, “Who do you say Jesus is?”
2. Write down your answer to the question: Who do you say Jesus is? Explain why you believe what you said. Defend your answer with scripture and truths from today’s message.
3. Faith @ Home: Discuss with a friend or as a family how your life backs up or denies your answer about who Jesus is. Talk about any changes you need to make.
4. Read the Nicene Creed which was the result of the council of Nicene in response to the heresy being taught about the person and work of Christ in AD 325.
5. Illuminate the truth by looking up these scriptures about Jesus, God’s Promised Son! (John 2:1, 3:16; Ephesians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 1:10; Matthew 1:23; 1 Timothy 1:1; Romans 3:26; Revelation 5:6, 19:16, 22:13; John 4:25; Mark 16:6; 1 John 2:2; John 11:25, 14:6; Luke 2:11; Isaiah 9:6)