

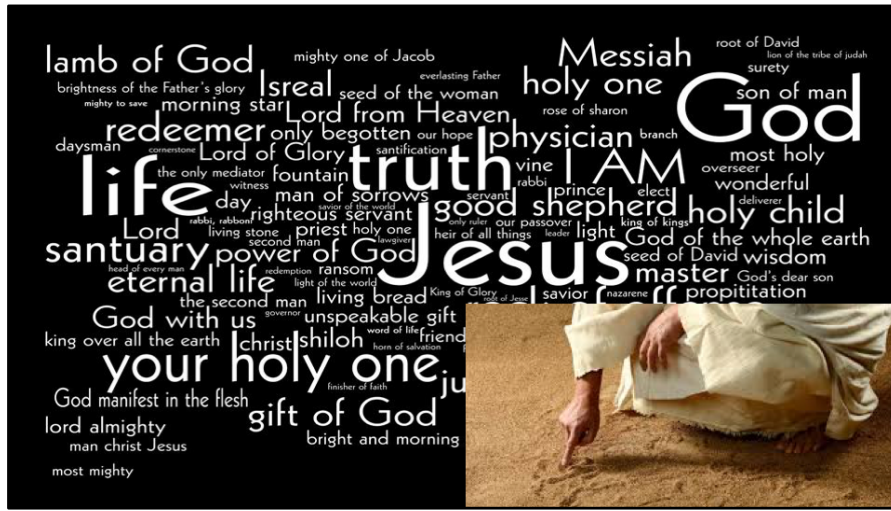


**WHO DO YOU  
THINK YOU ARE?**

**. . . Who do you think you are?**

**-- We may want to say that to some folks who come across to us as arrogant snobs.**

**TR: But would we ever think to ask that question of . . .**

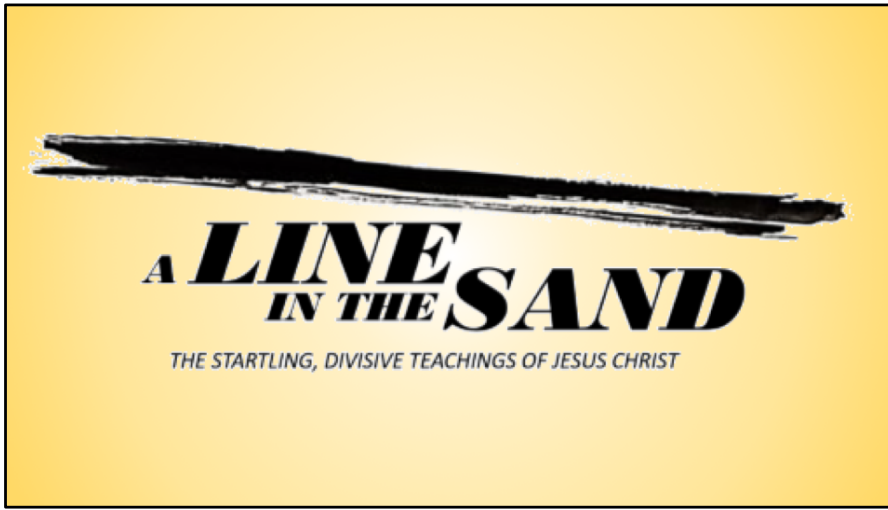


... Jesus.

-- This man who needed to eat and sleep, who got tired and cried ...

-- ... this fully human person, whom most people seem to like, causes a rift when He claims something so startling and divisive

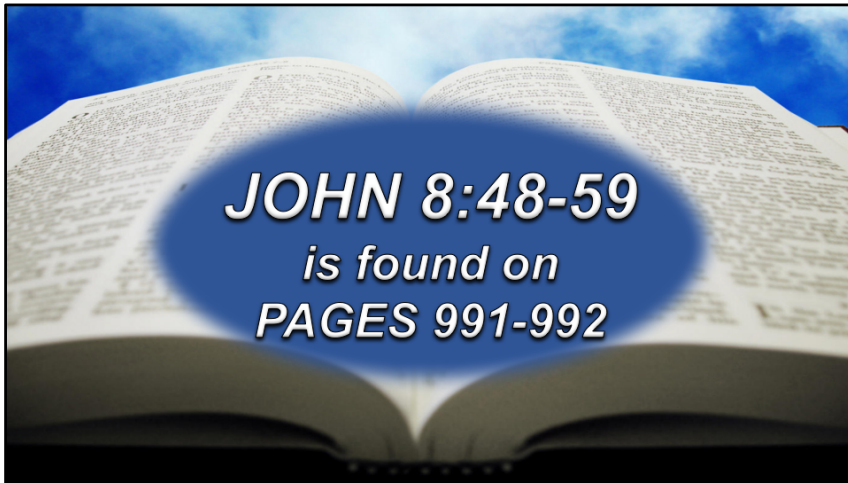
...  
 TR: ... it actually draws ...



... a line in the sand.

TR: The instance of this clear delineation that I'm thinking of is

...



**... found in John 8:48-59**

**TR: In our sermon notes we see the flow of our reflections today ...**

Jesus draws a line in the sand by making  
“outrageous claims” about Himself



“Who do you (Jesus)  
make yourself out to be?”



“Who do you make Jesus out to be?”

**We move from . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: Let’s start right at the top . . .**

Jesus draws a line in the sand by making  
“outrageous claims” about **Himself**

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: John 8:48**

The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.

ESV

## READ SLIDE

- Interestingly, it seems likely that these Jews were the same as those mentioned in verse 31 "the Jews who had believed in Him." This fits with John's theme of fickle faith.
  - Jesus had just claimed to be the light of the world and even sinless . . . and they we offended.
  - Accusation = Samaritan, demon, seeking His own glory
- TR: Verse 51 continues . . .

John 8:51-53

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! **Who do you make yourself out to be?”**

ESV

## READ SLIDE

-- How could Jesus claim that people would not die?  
Abraham and the prophets died!

-- And then the key statement, “Who do you make yourself out to be?”

TR: Verse 54 . . .



**READ SLIDE**  
**TR: Verse 56**

## **READ SLIDE**

- [50] is a rounding off, not Jesus' actual age.**
  - It is like saying, "You're not even retired yet . . . and you've seen Abraham and know what he rejoiced in?"**
  - Did these Jews understand Jesus' outrageous claims about Himself?**
- TR: Verse 59 answers that . . .**

**READ SLIDE**

**-- How Jesus hid Himself, either miraculously or blending in with the crowd, we do not know. But, we do not it was not yet His time to die.**

**TR: With these thoughts providing our sounding board, . . .**

Jesus draws a line in the sand by making  
“outrageous claims” about Himself



“Who do you (Jesus)  
make yourself out to be?”

. . . what do we hear Jesus claiming for Himself? Who is He making Himself out to be?

TR: What we think about when we think about God, and specifically the Son of God, Jesus, is probably the most important thing about us.

**A few weeks ago we looked at the 8 Simple Drawings.**

**-- When I modified the Gospel Presentation called Two Way to Live, one of the big changes was to add drawing number 5.**

**-- This drawing is essential in presenting the Gospel because it gives us a chance to share the uniqueness of Jesus.**

**-- He is not one of the many gods, nor is he merely a prophet or good man.**

**-- He claimed for Himself to be God's Son Himself, come in the flesh.**

**TR: Review the passage again and tell me whether it is not true that Jesus claimed to . . .**

**. . . be the one that gives eternal life.**

**-- Not just a better life or even an abundant life, but forever and ever life.**

**TR: If we had been reading John's Gospel straight through we would have run into these passages, before and after our text .**

**. .**

**In chapter 5, Jesus says . . . READ SLIDE  
TR: And then in chapter 11 . . .**

**. . . READ SLIDE**

**-- Jesus claims to be the key to knowing that we can have eternal life and that death does not have to be the final chapter of our life's book.**

**TR: Jesus also claimed . . .**



**. . . that He is the One . . . READ SLIDE**

**-- Now, this resonates with our “who do you think you are?” feeling . . . if I said you must obey me to have eternal life, that’s exactly what you should say.**

**TR: But, Jesus in verse 51 says . . .**

John 8:51-53

**“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”** <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’” <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?”

ESV

- ... “if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”**
- When Jesus says, “my word,” He is referring to the whole of His message.**
- I don’t blame the Jews for struggling with this ... who wouldn’t.**
- But, that doesn’t mean it isn’t true ... we would have to look at the evidence and decide.**
- TR: Who did Jesus make Himself out to be?**

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: The Jews claimed to know God but Jesus said . . .**

**. . . that they have not known him. But, Jesus knows Him and keeps His Word, as it says at the end of verse 55.**  
**-- Jesus claimed to have a personal relationship with God the Father AND that He was fully obedient to all that God said.**  
**TR: Who did Jesus make Himself out to be?**

**He said He was . . . READ SLIDE**  
**TR: In verse 54 . . .**

**“Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ “**  
**-- People say that there are many roads to God, but Jesus claims that He is THE ONE whom the Father glorifies.**  
**TR: And then, the most outlandish of all His claims, if it were not true . . .**

**Jesus makes Himself out to be the One Who is eternal.**

**TR: The end of verse 58 reads . .**

**“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” “**

**-- “Ego eimi” – repeated in verses 24, 28 and now verse 58.**

**-- What Jesus is saying is, “Before Abraham came into being, I eternally was, as now I am, and ever continue to be.” (Barrett)**

**TR: Some debate whether Jesus is referring back to Exodus 3 . .**

**.**



**. . . where God says to Moses that He can be referred to as I AM.**

**-- The Greek translation (LXX) renders this “ego eimi”. But, some still wonder if this was a claim to being God.**

**-- Yet, our concluding verse says they picked up stones . . . they understood what Jesus was claiming and they considered it blasphemy.**

**TR: So, Jesus makes some pretty powerful claims . . .**

Jesus draws a line in the sand by making  
“outrageous claims” about Himself



“Who do you (Jesus)  
make yourself out to be?”



“Who do you make Jesus out to be?”

. . . that force us to answer the question, “Who do YOU make Jesus out to be?”

TR: In our notes I added a small table at the bottom . . .

**. . . and the line in the middle of the table, dividing the columns, could be considered the line in the sand that Jesus' draws with His claims.**

**-- Either Jesus is . . . READ SLIDE (column 1 heading),**

**-- OR, He is . . . READ SLIDE (column 2 heading).**

**TR: Some may say, we really can't know Who Jesus really was. But, we can if we follow the flow-chart of the evidence.**

**The flow-chart:**

***Do we have what they wrote?  
Did they write accurately?  
What did Jesus claim for Himself?  
What is the evidence for  
or against His claim?  
What are our options  
of responding to His claims?***

**We can tie our head and our hearts to Jesus, as one of our church's core values claim.**

**-- READ SLIDE**

**TR: We have Jesus claims, and we have the evidence of His miracles, especially the resurrection, now we must deal with Him.**

**We must decide which side of the line we are on.**

**TR: This same Jesus claims, in His post-resurrection and ascension revelation to John,**

**READ SLIDE**

-- This “before Abraham was, I AM” says that He is the Alpha and Omega.

-- He claims to be the eternal God Who offers us eternal life with Him.

TR: So, what is our response? Who do we make Jesus out to be?

**IF . . . he is just a demon-possessed, self-glorifying Samaritan and blasphemer, the death is still our greatest fear.**

**-- BUT, if He is . . . READ SLIDE (2 column heading) then we can look BEYOND death to life everlasting.**

**-- Even as was critical to Mike Walt's trusting Christ, he wanted to KNOW that he had eternal life, as promised in 1 John 5.**

**TR: Jesus didn't deny we would physically die, but that death in the fullness of the term would not hurt us. We would not be SEPARATED from God forever.**

**Yes, it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.**

**-- Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection dealt with our sin and He bore them on the cross, offered as our substitutionary sacrifice.**

**-- And so, we do not need to fear the second death . . . the judgment of God.**

**TR: Are you afraid of the wrong thing?**



**Are you afraid of death?**

**-- Jesus made clear, it is only through Him that we can look beyond death to eternal life.**

**TR: What is a “good death?”**

**Dame Cicely Saunders**

*Her time with patients confirmed that dying was a spiritual matter. St. Joseph's taught Saunders that "a hospice is a stopping place for pilgrims. For many of ours it is the last journey. If we can help them to be quiet by relieving their physical and mental burden, we can see so clearly that the real work is not ours at all but Our Lord's, Who by His saving death draws near to all the dying."*



**The Hospice movement illustrates our world's tendency to miss the point.**

- The website says we have the right to die pain-free and with dignity, and that our families will receive support.
  - But, that is not a "good death."
  - The founder of the modern hospice movement was a believer in Christ. She said . . . READ SLIDE (quote being with "a hospice . . .")
  - For many of us, the process of dying, that is not sudden and unexpected, is a final chance to believe in Christ.
- TR: Who do WE make Jesus out to be?**

**Our answer is seen not just in the words we speak but in our response to His word.**

**-- Are we the final judge of what we will obey?**

**-- Or, do we live UNDER His word?**

**-- There is no tension between faith and obedience in the Bible.**

**TR: Our church's logo, what we yearn to live out at both of our campuses, is**



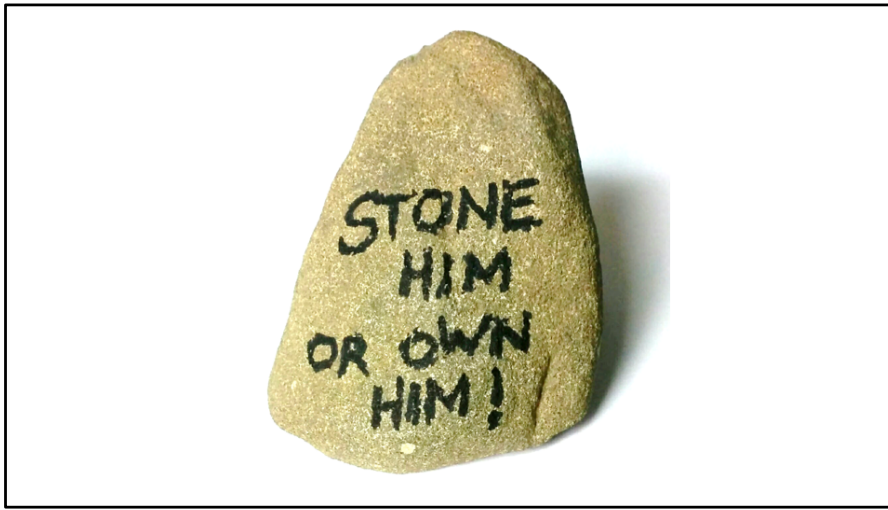
- . . . a picture of living under the Bible . . . under God's Word.**
- The Jews, who had believed in Him, we now ready to stone Him.**
  - They wanted a customizable Jesus . . . one that has only the parts we like, who only makes the claims we find tolerable.**
  - But, Jesus will have none of it. He draws a line in the sand.**
  - And, when we refuse to obey His clear teaching . . . we make clear which side of the line we are on.**
- TR: Who do WE make Jesus out to be?**

**Our response must either be STONE HIM or OWN HIM!  
-- And, if we own Him, we must LAUD Him and give Him glory .  
. . to glorify Him even as the Father gives Him glory.  
TR: It is time to . . .**



**. . . get off the fence.**

**TR: Even as a memento from a number of Easters ago reminds me in my study . . .**



**. . . stone Him or own Him!**

**-- I am either "all in" for Jesus or I am "not in at all."**

**TR: What will you do with Jesus?**

Jesus draws a line in the sand by making  
“outrageous claims” about Himself



“Who do you (Jesus)  
make yourself out to be?”

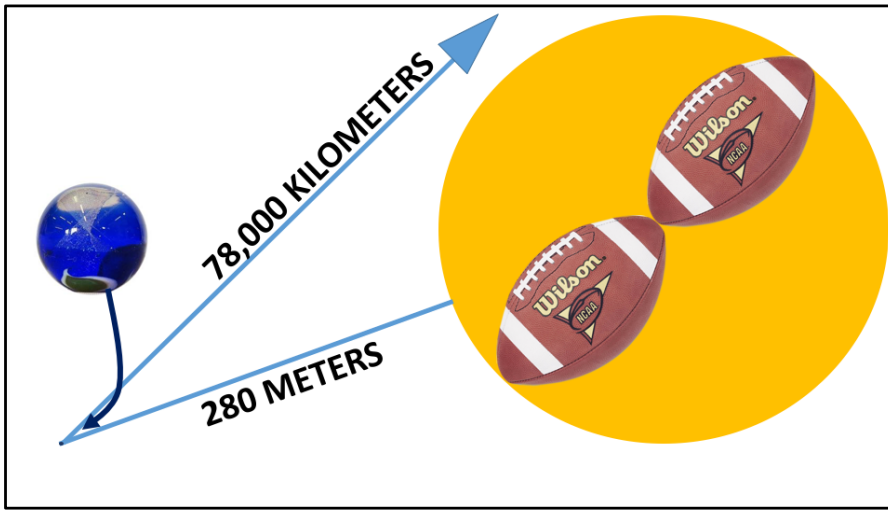


“Who do you make Jesus out to be?”

**“Who do YOU make Jesus out to be?”**

**TR: And, if you own Him, today He bids you come to Him, the eternal God, the I AM. He yearns to give you comfort in the midst of your long days.**

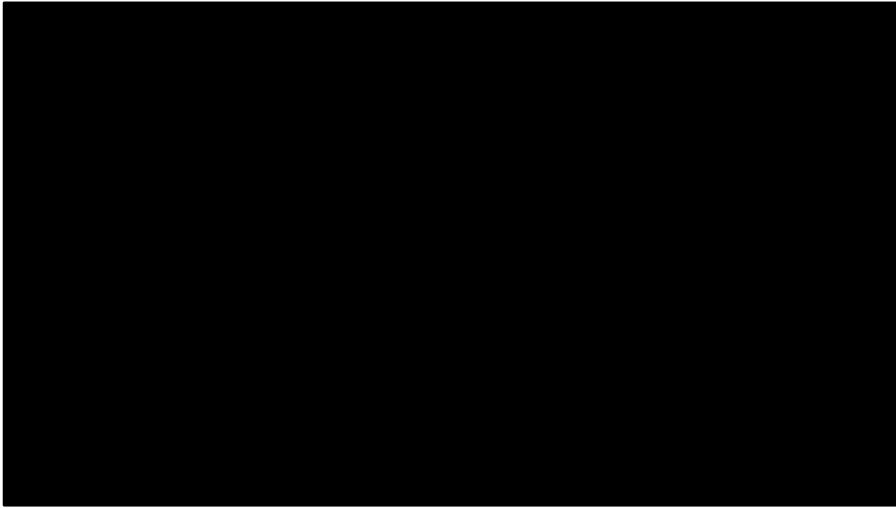




Especially, if you feel like you've had a long week remember . . .

- If the earth were a marble, the Sun would be 103 times as big, roughly a two football diameter. It would be about 920 feet apart or 280 meters.
- The distance to our nearest star after the Sun would be Alpha Centauri, about 78,000 kilometers or 45,000 miles away.
- Our galaxy has an estimated 250 billion stars. The universe is estimated to have about 300 billion other galaxies.
- SO . . . if the length of my life were measured as the distance from Newaygo to downtown Grand Rapids and yours was all the way south of GR to the new outlet mall . . . in the scheme of the measure of eternity . . . how significant is the difference?
- If you've had a LONG WEEK . . . Jesus, the eternal God come in the flesh for your salvation, invites you to come to Him and find peace and rest . . . and perspective on what is long . . . and

**what really matters.**



**END SLIDE (Blank)**