

Who Is This Man?

Jesus is Better

Intro: *The most important question we will ever ask. He's received more adoration, criticism, devotion, and opposition than any person in history. Every word and deed have been studied, scrutinized, compared, and dissected. This one life impacts every life on earth.*

James Allen Francis

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness...Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.

Google: shows over 2 billion results. There are endless opinions and theories about who He is. All kinds of conclusions.

- We must decide about who we believe He is. Because who we believe Jesus to be affects everything in this life and eternity.

2 Things about the 2 billion Results:

1. *They Can't All Be Right* (some things being truth, make other things false. God is love so He can't be hate)
2. *They Can't All Be Wrong* (There's truth in there. We can't throw everything out because there's so much that isn't true. The truth is out there.)

Research Study: Who is Jesus? In 2020, 52% of Americans were surveyed and the most popular opinion about Jesus was "He is a great moral teacher, but He is not God."

C. S. Lewis Trilemma

"I am trying to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

Liar? (He made it up) Lunatic? (He believes what He made up) Lord? (He really is God)

- This matters now and for all of eternity. Next few weeks- close look at the book of John- "I Am" statements that clarified who He is and what He is all about.

John 6:26-66 (NLT) Context:

- Jesus was teaching and the people were hungry, so they brought him a kid's sack lunch and He feeds all the people, He walks on the water through a storm, and now He can teach the people.
- Jesus goes away by himself, and people are looking for Jesus. It's the same today. People are looking for Jesus. "Jesus, where did you go."

Verse 26-27

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ²⁷ But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man^[a] can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

- They wake up hungry and start looking for Jesus. He calls them out, "You look for me because of what I did for you, not because of who I am."
- They want the signs and wonders but not Jesus, more concerned with His power than His presence. This can be true for us sometimes too.
- Most of these people didn't stick around.
- They want the power and begin demanding a sign.

Verse 28-34

²⁸ They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

²⁹ Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? ³¹ After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'^[b]"

³² Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

- They liked what they were hearing...." give us more of that every day!"

Who Is He? (God)

Verse 35

³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

- "I Am" doesn't seem that powerful to us but to this 1st-century, Jewish audience, His words carry great significance. He is claiming to be God!

- Some argue that He never claimed to be God but that ignores the “I Am’s” of the Bible. These statements left no question in His audience’s minds about what He was saying.
- They know their history. It would have taken them back to Exodus where God tells Moses, “I Am.” (Burning bush, God hears the cries, Moses is called, God introduces Himself) *Exodus 3:14¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I am who I am.^[a] Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.”*
- So, when Jesus says, “I am” he is using the same authority that God the Father uses with Moses
- The pattern in the Book of John:
 - o Jesus says or does something.
 - o Opposition/frustration
 - o Jesus claims “I AM.”
 - o People must decide who He is.
- The very reason they wanted to kill Jesus is that He claimed to be God.

What Does He Offer? (Bread)

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

1. The Bread of Life is the only thing that can SAVE you.

- He tells them that this bread has come down from Heaven to save.
- Just like bread from earth fills your hunger, Jesus will cause you never to hunger again.
- They reply, “We want that, what work must we do?” Jesus answered, “BELIEVE.”
- Believe is the central purpose of John: *(John 20:31 ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe^[d] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.)*
- Jesus makes all these claims and then demonstrates the validity of these claims by performing the miraculous all for Belief! Who is this man?

2. The Bread of Life is the only thing that can SATISFY you.

- Not just saves but satisfies-even better!
- So many of us search for significance and meaning in this life when He is the only one who satisfies. We go from on thing to another thing searching (relationship to relationship, job to job, hobby to hobby, store to store, we even reach what this world calls success but still fill empty.
- The deepest longings in the human heart can never be satisfied by the things of this world.
- Ex. You can get so full, only to be hungry again in a few hours.

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” ~ C.S. Lewis

- Jesus is the only one who can claim this because He's not from here. Created things can never satisfy because our hearts are made for the Creator.
- Through a relationship with Jesus, you can live a life in which you are fully satisfied.

John 10:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (I want them to have it in the fullest possible way NIRV)

- Outside of a vibrant, passionate relationship with Jesus, we will never be satisfied and always come up empty. But Jesus offers us Himself- The Bread of Life.

3. The Bread of Life is the only thing that can SUSTAIN you.

- Jesus compares the Bread of Life with manna in the desert. God provided what they needed for only that day then it would go bad.
- Jesus offers something different and better. Eating and drinking is a temporary fix.
- This is why addiction can be so powerful because of the quick fix but Jesus says I'm not like anything of this world.
- What Jesus offers us is meant to last. Jesus is better!

Jesus does more than give us our fill; He makes us full.

4 Responses to The Bread of Life:

1. Some people just COMPLAIN about Jesus.

- They immediately begin murmuring. "This is Joseph's kid, who does He think He is?"

Verse 43

⁴³ But Jesus replied, "Stop complaining about what I said.

- Some of us just need this one verse. Change your life.
- They like Jesus because He has been feeding them but as soon as He teaches, and challenges them to grow, they get mad.
- Sound familiar? When you hear something or read something in the Bible that is uncomfortable? "Who does this guy think He is?"
- **Jesus always encourages us to move past just FEELING to FAITH.**
- Everyone is full of feelings, but Jesus wants to make us faithful.

2. Some people are just CONFUSED about Jesus.

Verse 60

⁶⁰ Many of his disciples said, "This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?"

- This isn't the crowd, these are students/followers.

3. Some people are just CASUAL about Jesus.

- Complaining and Confusion will always lead to Casual.

Verse 66

⁶⁶ At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

- What point? It gets hard, and uncomfortable, hurts our feelings, challenges how we think, and we quit.
- This brings us to one of the most powerful moments in the Bible. I'm not sure what Jesus was feeling right here but I'm sure it wasn't good.

Verse 67-69

⁶⁷ Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.^[j]"

- This is a place where Peter gets it right.
- The Bible doesn't tell us that Peter didn't complain or that never got confused. He just never let make Him casual about Jesus.

Few People are COMMITTED to Jesus

- Peter isn't saying there's no other place to go. It's true, there are like 2 billion places you can go, places you can search, and things you can do but there is only ONE who has the words of eternal life. Jesus is better!

There's only One who SAVES, One who SATISFIES, and One who SUSTAINS!

What is your response to the Bread of Life, today?