

NOT MY JESUS

Reclaiming the Truth, Rejecting the Idols

LESSON 1 – MOLDABLE JESUS

*“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” **Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)***

Why You Can Trust The Bible as the Authoritative Word of God

The question of why we can trust the Bible as the **authoritative Word of God** is foundational for every Christian. In a world where truth is often seen as personal to your preferences and opinions, the Bible claims to be from God and authoritative, regardless of your preferences and opinions. The Scriptures are the divinely inspired revelation of God to His creation: humanity. This claim carries weight because the Bible speaks not only about history and mortality but also about the nature of God, humanity, salvation, and eternity.

We can trust the Bible as the authoritative Word of God because it is *divinely inspired, inerrant, historically reliable, and transformative*. The Bible stands apart from all other books because it is not merely the product of human effort but the very Word of God, breathe out by Him *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” **2 Timothy 3:16*** and preserved for us. Its teachings are true, its historical claims are reliable, and its impact on individual lives and society is undeniable.

As Christians, our faith is built on the solid foundation of God's word. As we study Scripture, we can be confident that we are hearing the voice of God, who has revealed Himself to us through His word. When the Bible speaks, God speaks.

Quote— *“There is compelling evidence that Jesus Christ was who He claimed to be - the one and only Son of God. The atheism that I had embraced for so long buckled under the weight of historical truth. ~ Lee Strobel*

Why do different people have different opinions about who Jesus is?

One of the reasons we all liked Play-Doh as children was because we believed we could create anything we wanted from our imagination. And if we didn't like it, we could remold it and start all over again. Sadly, that is how many people today approach Jesus. Many people claim to love Jesus even if they don't like the Bible, because the Jesus they claim to love, and follow is not the Jesus of the Bible. The Jesus they love is a Jesus they've created by their own imagination.

1. When you see Jesus as **moldable**, you shape and create Him to be what you want Him to be, all we've done is create an idol named Jesus. There is no power in idols.

*“Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” **Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)***

- A. Idols can't do anything helpful. Your made-up Jesus will never bring you **real** freedom, power, or joy,

because He is not the real Jesus. Only the real Jesus of the Bible can save and transform you.

2. What **four false beliefs** did people have to say about Jesus. (**vs 14**)
 - 1) Jesus was a **herald** of national repentance. (**Herald means: an official messenger bringing news**)
 - 2) **John the Baptist**
 - 3) Jesus was a famous **worker of miracles**, like Elijah.
 - 4) Jesus was someone who **spoke the words of God**, like Jeremiah and the prophets.

Nothing has changed about this today. People still maintain many false beliefs and opinions about who Jesus is.

3. After hearing the false beliefs about Himself, Jesus turned the question to His disciples and asked them the most important question any of us will ever have to **answer: Who do you say that I am? (vs 15)**
4. How we **live** reveals what we believe to be true about Jesus.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

- A. To get the **objective truth** about Jesus, we need to look to the Bible. Our opinions and needs don't change who Jesus is.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

"Your word is truth." John 17:17b (NIV)

- B. Your faith in the real Jesus will absolutely **transform** the way you live.

Quote— *"The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."* ~ **Brennan Manning**

5. Peter responded by **confessing** the truth of who Jesus is (**vs 16**).
 - "You are the Messiah": "The Son of The Living God"

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32 (NKJV)