

## “The Very Central Question of Life Itself”

John 12:37-50

For God So Loved the World – John, Part 2

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Let’s begin by exploring the very central question of \_\_\_\_\_ itself! (Ac 17:16-34)

- This question has invited indifference, intrigue, debate, speculation, mockery, and confusion for 2,000 years.
- This question has been debated, contested, and misunderstood for 2,000 years. *Ignore it at your own peril!*

Who do you say \_\_\_\_\_ is? (Mt 16:13-15)

How we answer this Q determines whether we can have \_\_\_\_\_ or not! In the here and now!

- “Tell me more, Pastor!” *Sure. But first, let’s explore in our main passage how Jesus Himself answers the question.*

**John 12:37-50...** In verses 44-50, Jesus Himself answers the question as to who He is.

- **VV 44-45...** “Whoever believes in Me also believes in \_\_\_\_\_. When you look at Me, you’re looking at God.” – Heb 1:3
- **VV 47-48...** “I came to \_\_\_\_\_ you. If you reject Me, you’ll be condemned.” – Jn 3:16-18
- **VV 49-50...** “My words are God’s words. Heed them and receive \_\_\_\_\_.” – 1 Jn 5:11-12

*In summary, the textbook answer to the central question of life itself is the following:*

*Jesus is 1) Eternal God 2) Savior of the World, and 3) Giver of Life!*

“Wow, tell me more!” *Sure, happy to be of service. Below are some verses to support these radical claims about Jesus.*

**1) Eternal \_\_\_\_\_.** Jn 10:10; Jn 8:58; Ex 3:14 → Ac 20:28; Heb 1:8

*a. Jesus was born without a sin nature → His death was an acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world. – 1 Jn 2:2*

**2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.** Ro 5:12; Eccl 7:20; Psa 51:5; Eph 2:1 → Jn 4:42; 1 Jn 4:14; Ac 4:12; Jn 14:6

*a. I was a dead man walking! – Eph 2:1-3*

**3) Giver of \_\_\_\_\_ (Gr. Zoe “Zoh-AY”).** Jn 3:16; Jn 5:24; Ro 6:23; 1 Jn 5:13; Mt 25:46

*a. I was made alive! – Eph 2:4-5*

“Awesome! But... so what? In other words, what do I do with this ?” *Assuming that you have been “made alive...”*

*Now that you know the answer to the Q, “Who do you say Jesus is?” SET A GOAL THIS WEEK TO ASK SOMEONE THIS QUESTION! (You should desire to do so. This is a characteristic of your new nature - Col 3:1-17.)*

**TURN OVER FOR APPLICATION AND GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS**

**There are people that God placed in your life who don't believe what the Bible teaches about Jesus.**

***That said, here are some tips regarding being a witness. (Ac 1:8)***

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ called to judge those who are not followers of Jesus. (1 Cor 5:9-13)
2. By not judging, we are, in essence, \_\_\_\_\_ the feet of sinners. Actually, Jesus is doing so through us. (Rom 8:9; Matt 11:19; Rom 2:4; Jn 6:44)
3. By applying points 1 and 2 above, an unsaved person would naturally \_\_\_\_\_ about our faith. (1 Pet 3:15)  
This, of course, opens the door to share John 3:16, the Gospel message.

*And in response...*

- i. Ask the question, "Who do you think Jesus is?"
- ii. Share John 3:16
- iii. Google together "Lewis' Trilemma,"
- iv. Ask, "Do you believe this?" If yes, then Google "The Sinner's Prayer." If no, then no worries. Pray the father will draw them,
- v. Invite them to come with you to church!

#### **THE MEANING OF "ETERNAL LIFE" IN JOHN 3:16; JOHN 5:24; ROMANS 6:23; 1 JOHN 5:13; MATT 25:46**

The Greek word is *Zoe* (pronounced "zoh-AY"). *Zoe* is defined as the absolute fullness of life. A life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed immeasurably in the here and now for those who put their absolute trust in Christ!

#### **GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS FOR "THE VERY CENTRAL QUESTION OF LIFE ITSELF" – 04/07/24**

Go through this note sheet and discuss with your growth group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and/or school mates. Bring this note sheet to your work and discuss it with your workmate over lunch. Bring it to school and discuss it with your schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses on the other side of this note sheet. Pray with one another.

1. The message presented some breathtaking details regarding who Jesus is. To be specific, there were three. Jesus being 1) Eternal God, 2) Savior of the World, and 3) Giver of Life.
  - a. On a scale of 1-5, how well did you know these details regarding Jesus? \_\_\_/5
  - b. Which of the three made the greatest impression on you and why? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Many, perhaps a majority of churches and denominations are not very Gospel-centric or Christocentric. In other words, there is not enough conviction or passion to emphasize what is central to the Christian faith, which is the Gospel and Jesus Christ. That said, be encouraged to look up Rom 1:16 and Col 1:15-20; 2:2-3 in the New Living Translation.
  - a. Why do you think that is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. A cursory reading through the New Testament would show how vitally important it is to be a student of the Word. That said, some denominations do not place in high regard the importance of their congregations becoming students of the Word.
  - a. Why do you think that is? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are your thoughts regarding asking someone this week the question, "Who do you say Jesus is?" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why does the Bible teach us to be witnesses? \_\_\_\_\_