



DEFENDING THE FAITH
An Eight-Week Series on Christian Apologetics

Let's Talk About Jesus

A Christian Apologetics Message

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1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Apologetics, at the kitchen-table level, is learning to talk about Jesus with honesty, evidence, and love.

Whom say ye that I am?

— *Matthew 16:15*

01

Who He Claimed to Be

More than a good teacher

02

Why Jesus Is Not a
Fairy Tale

Real history, real witnesses

03

What We Must Do

From opinion to confession

The “good teacher” box is too small.

My Father

A unique relationship no prophet before Him claimed. John 5:17–18

I and my Father are one

They picked up stones because they understood Him to be making Himself God. John 10:30, 33

He that hath seen me hath seen the Father

Not a rabbi pointing away from himself. This is God-with-us. John 14:9

The Word was God... made flesh

John opens his Gospel the way Genesis opens the Bible. John 1:1, 14

He claimed authority only God can have.

1

Forgive sins

“Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.” Who can forgive sins but God only? Mark 2:5–10

2

Lord of the Sabbath

Authority over the Law, the Sabbath, and the final judgment. Mark 2:28; John 5:22

3

The only way

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

A good teacher says, “This is the way.” Jesus said, “I am the way.”

The box that is too small

A man keeps telling his coworkers, “My dad is just a nice older gentleman who likes fishing.”

Then the governor walks into the shop. Someone whispers, “That’s his father.”

The son was not lying about the fishing. He was hiding the office.

Many will grant that Jesus was kind and told memorable stories.

They will not deal with the office—His claim to be the Son of the living God.

“The Jesus you like is the One who did the God-talk.”

The Gospels do not begin with “Once upon a time.”

Real towns

Bethlehem
Nazareth
Capernaum
Jerusalem

Real rulers

Caesar Augustus
Herod
Pontius Pilate
Caiaphas

Real purpose

Luke wrote so Theophilus
“mightest know the certainty of
those things.”

Luke 1:4

Eyewitnesses, not a fairy tale.

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables... but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

— 2 Peter 1:16

01

A public gospel

Christ died, was buried, rose the third day, and was seen. 1 Cor. 15:3–8

02

Named witnesses

Cephas, the twelve, more than five hundred at once—most still alive when Paul wrote.

03

Nothing to gain

They were beaten, scattered, and many were killed. People do not die for a lie they know they invented.

A family story — or a rumor?

A FAMILY STORY

Names. Dates. Streets.

Living relatives who will correct you if you get it wrong.

That is how memory works in a community.

The New Testament reads like this: “we saw,” “we heard,” “ask the brethren—most of them are still alive.”

A RUMOR

Nobody was there.

Details change every time it is told.

Nobody can be checked.

Christianity is not a feeling that started in a church building. It is a report about a Person who lived, died, and rose in public.

Information is not the same as confession.

THE CROWD'S QUESTION

“Whom do men say that I am?”

Easy to answer.

You can hide behind the crowd.

Some say John. Some say Elijah. Some say a prophet.

JESUS' QUESTION

“But whom say ye that I am?”

This will not let you hide behind your parents' church or the Christmas carols you know.

Peter answered, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

That is not a slogan. That is a surrender.

There is no other name that saves.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

— Acts 4:12

THE NAME ON THE RESCUE LINE

If you are in the Gulf in a rip current, you do not want six theories about swimming. You want the one hand that can pull you out.

“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

Jesus is not asking first for your arguments. He is asking for you.

1

The gospel

Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again the third day. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

2

The confession

“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16

3

The promise

“As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.” John 1:12



THE QUESTION THAT REMAINS

Whom say ye that I am?

Matthew 16:15

“Whom do men say that I am?” is interesting.

“Whom say ye that I am?” is everything.

If you already know Him, talk about Him this week.
If you have only known about Him, today is a good day to answer Him.

Lakewood Family Church · Hudson, Florida · Sundays 10 AM



JOIN US THIS WEEK

Your Invitation

Lakewood Family Church

Wednesday · 7:00 PM — Bible Study & Youth
Next Sunday · 10:00 AM — Morning Worship

Bring a friend. There is a place for you here.
Childcare is available on Sundays.

www.suncoast4jesus.com

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