

Who is this Jesus?

Scripture: John 11:25 “Jesus said to her, “ I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,”

Introduction:

In the past month I have begun to read the book of John on at least three occasions. As I began I read the words, I was drinking in deeply their meaning, ...but as I reached the end of chapter one. I stopped and was certain that I was missing something.

So as I meditated on the passages, and for some reason, I felt that I shouldn't read on until I understood better why Jesus was referred to as the word of God (John 1:1). So I sleep on it as I pondered these things in my heart.

For weeks I would began the book of John again and again only to stop after chapter one to ponder the very meaning of who Jesus was.

Last Sunday night I woke up at 2:00 a.m. thinking about this thing and I was reminded of the time Jesus was out on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples when the storm came up and nearly swamped the boat. The disciples, in fear, woke Him up and ask Him to help. In an awesome display of the divine, Jesus calmed the storm. Afterwards His disciples in Mark 4:41 say “*Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him.*”

Transitional Statement:

Church, I can't think of a better question to focus on for a sermon than “*Who is this Jesus*”, on the surface we can readily say that Jesus is the son of God, but today it is my intention to step back and consider the larger picture of all that he really is.

Because we must know who we have believed in, and the more we know Him, the more we can be like Him and ultimately the more we can please God.

Lesson:

I. First of all, Jesus is Part of the eternal Godhead.

A. Genesis 1:26 God says “*let us make man in our image...*”

1. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) , and God the Holy Spirit.

B. But Jesus existed in ancient eternity before the world was created.

1. Some have mistaken Col. 1:15 which says that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation, to mean that God created Him.

2. Nothing could be further from the truth, because we understand that Jesus is God...John 1:1

II. Jesus was appointed to be the Savior of the world.

A. The God head appointed the, Jesus part, to be the Christ before the foundations of the world.

1. 1 Peter 1:20 “For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.”

2. The He that was foreknown in this passage is the Christ.

a. And the word “Christ” is word used for “Messiah”...i.e. the one who would save and deliver the world through atonement.

- Or by satisfying of God’s wrath.

3. Think about this for a minute...God had planned to make us

a. But He knew we would sin and need a savior before he ever breathed into Adam the breath of life....

b. He established a savior.

3. Jesus knew what this meant.

a. He knew it would mean great trial and pain on His part

b. But He yielded His needs

c. He submitted Himself to the overall will of the God head.

4. Interestingly enough God purposed before the hands of time ever began to move, that we should be in Christ...

a. Yes, God foreknew us

b. And predetermined for us to walk in Him

Ephesians 1:4

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

III. Jesus was there at the beginning of time.

A. Genesis chapter 1 begins with the creation of the heavens and the earth.

B. But an incredible thing happened there in the beginning that we often over look.

1. You see, there was only emptiness and shapelessness until God opened His mouth.

2. In Verse 3 we see the Eternal God open His mouth and speak.
 - a. This speech wasn't communication....there wasn't anyone else !
 - b. It wasn't to direction to some building crew to get started with the earth.
 - c. And it wasn't just noise

3. As the words of God spilled over time and space
 - a. It was an expression of God's deepest desires
 - b. It was a pouring forth of His will
 - c. It was an establishment of His purposes

4. i.e. it was Jesus
 - a. John 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*
 - b. You see, Jesus is the deepest expression of God !
 - Jesus is the essence of God's will
 - Jesus is the extent of God's purposes
 - c. Col 1:15 says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God
 - The exact representation.
 - Isaiah 9:6 refers to Jesus as "Mighty God"

C. There in the beginning first and foremost...God said *"let there be light"*

1. First lets remember that it wasn't until the 4th day that God made the sun, moon and stars.
2. But on the first day....the first thing that comes from His mouth is *"let there be light"*
 - a. If this wasn't the sun, moon and stars....what could it have been?
 - This is spiritual light
 - This was Jesus...the Christ
 - b. The first thing God had done before time was to establish the Christ and Christ is God's first delivery to this world.

John 9:5 *"While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."*
 - c. Light gives clarity and resolution to darkness

Matthew 4:16 In a reference to Jesus says:

“THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.”

1 John 1:7 *“...but if we walk in the Light (Jesus) as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

D. Jesus wasn't just at the beginning but all of creation happened through Him.

1. Colossians 1:16 *“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.”*

IV. Then Jesus came to earth in the flesh.

A. Jesus subjected Himself to the flesh.

1. I think God would have a great deal to say about what an overwhelming sacrifice it was to simply move the spiritual to the fleshly....but I am not qualified to speak on that.

2. John 1:14 *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

3. God told Joseph to name his son “Immanuel” which means God with us
Matthew 1:23

B. Jesus gave up His divine rights

1. Philippians 2:5-8

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

a. He humbled Himself ...Verse 8 says

2. Jesus was simply put...God's pouring forth of love on this world

a. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

C. Jesus was given all authority

1. Matthew 28:18 “...*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...*”
2. Not just authority over the winds and the waves.
 - a. But authority over all men
 - b. Colossians 3:17 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

-“In the name of”...meaning by His authority

3. And to all this I think of God’s direction to Peter, James and John on the mount of transfiguration..... “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased...listen to Him” ...Matthew 17:5
 - a. After all He is the word of life

V. While Jesus walked this ground, He tried to teach people about God.

- A. Everywhere He went instruction was on His tongue
- B. He was “the one true teacher” of ...Matthew 23:10
- C. And people knew Him as the teacher
 1. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and called Him “*teacher*”
- B. I can’t help but to think about some of His greatest lessons
 1. Sermon on the Mount...the most incredible sermon every preached !
 2. I think about the passionate instruction to the woman at the wellJohn 4
 3. And the loving outreach to the woman caught in adulteryJohn 8
 4. Jesus wasn’t trying to condemn...but instruct in righteousness
- E. Jesus took up the very message of John the Baptist and taught repentance as a primary message...Matthew 4:17
 1. Jesus was constantly warning people... Hebrews 12:25
 2. And encouraging them to seek the paths less traveled. Matthew 7:13-14
- F. Jesus simply said: “*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...*” Matthew 11:29
 1. I’m here to give you direction

VI. Jesus tried to show us how to have the proper focus.

A. While being tempted He, without fail, Jesus would turn away from personal desire and point to God's desiresMatthew 4

1. He was a selfless person

B. In the garden of Gethsemane, with great sweat drops as of blood, again he yielded to the Father's willMatthew 26

VII. Jesus even paved the way for our success by setting some great examples for us

A. Jesus offered a true friendship

1. Have you ever had friends that:

- a. Manipulated you
- b. Were hard to get along with
- c. Or even drug you down...

2. Jesus offers the greatest of all friendships

- a. With a blend of compassion and concern
- b. Mixed with love and faithfulness
- c. But also having enough care to say what needs to be said

3. John 15:13 *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."*

4. Continuing on Verse 14 says *"You are My friends if you do what I command you."*

B. Jesus was a helper of the weaker

1. Those stranded in the bar ditches of life
2. Those with Lepers
3. The social outcasts
4. And even the Zacheaus the tax man
5. Ultimate good Samaritan

C. Jesus is a comforter...and compassionate person

1. When Lazarus had died
2. Jesus came and found his sister Mary and Martha grieving
3. And Jesus came along side them and wept with them..... John 11:35

D. Jesus is a servant

1. John 13:4-5 “...got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”
2. Matthew 20:28 “... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

E. Jesus is a healer / The Great Physician

1. Matthew 9:10-12 “Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, " Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.”
2. To the lame man at the pool of Bethesda
 - a. Jesus asks “Do you wish to get well” John 5:6
 - b. Healing is part of who He is.
3. Now Church, there are Doctors on every street corner
 - a. Sometimes I think that Cracker Jacks is licensing Doctors
 - b. But there is only one Doctor of the soul....Jesus the Christ.
 - c. When we go to Him...healing is certain....100% cure ratio
4. We should want to talk to people about Him.

F. Jesus is an Evangelist

1. “...not wanting any to perish but for all to come to repentance” 1 Peter 3:9
2. Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”
 - a. One must only invite Him in !

G. It is no wonder that Isaiah refers to Christ as “Wonderful” and “Counselor” Isa 9:6

VIII. Even in the face of rejection, Jesus gave His all at the cross

A. Jesus was flat out rejected.

1. By menIsaiah 53:1-3

*“Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.
3 He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”*

2. Perhaps the fullness of the statement in John 1:11 which says Jesus came to His own and they received Him not.

B. In that rejection Jesus willingly went to the cross

IX. So let's gather around the cross to see what we can learn about Jesus there.

A. Here first and foremost Jesus is God's own sacrifice

1. John the Baptist rightfully calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” ...John 1:29

B. The Christ

1. Atoner or Satisfaction of God's wrath
2. Ephesians 1:7 *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace”*

C. The Savior of the world ...Matthew 1:21

D. The pleader of forgiveness

1. Luke 23:34 *“But Jesus was saying, “ Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.”*
2. While we were sinful and even His enemiesRomans 5:8,10

E. Yet, he poured out Himself unto death.

1. Showing us the core of Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely

look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

F. Jesus is the very essence of Love

1. For no greater love has been known....John 15:13
2. Here at the cross 1 Corinthians 13 came alive
3. Selfless love was introduced to the world.

G. At the cross the “Prince of Peace” of Isa 9:6 had made peace with God possible

H. And at the cross the “*Unshakable Kingdom*” of Heb 12:26-28 was established

X. After the cross Jesus is declared:

A. The resurrection and life John 11:25

1. Death was put down
2. And true life was ushered into the world

B. Jesus was given as the “Head of the Church” Col 1:18

1. To be our high priest....Hebrews 4:14
2. Appointed to serve at the altar of God on our behalf

C. Jesus is seen as the husband of the Church ...Eph 5

1. Faithful in His selfless love and care

D. Jesus is the reconciler of God and manCol 1:19-20

E. The Vine supplying the needs of the branches ...John 15

F. Our mediator between us and God....1 Timothy 2:5

1. Praying on our behalf as He did for His disciples in John 17

G. Finally, the Kingdom manager...Col 1:13

XI. In the grandest of terms Jesus is:

A. The “Son of God”

1. Declared for all men by the resurrection Romans 1:4

B. Jesus is the “Good Shepherd” of John 10

1. Caring greatly for His sheep

2. Exemplified in Psalms 23... *“The Lord is my Shepherd”*
 - a. Watching over us.

C. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords... of Rev 19:16

D. He is the way the truth and life and the only way to the Father... John 14:6

E. And finally He is the rider on the white horse in Revelation 19:11

1. Those who ride with Him will be victorious

Conclusion:

Phil 2:10 says: At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess

Church, Jesus is our refuge

Matthew 11:28 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”*

Colossians 1:17 *“...in Him all things hold together.”*

-Is your life falling apart?Do you need a rest?

-The Great Shepherd is knocking at the door, but the door can only be opened from the inside.