

Welcome

introduction

- Thank you Garage Sale- donations, volunteers, buyers
- Money Talk CDs
- Grants Video

Pray!

New Series 'excited'

Four Faces of Jesus- Based on the four flavours of the Gospels

- -Son of God
- -friend of Sinners
- -Son of Man (Human)
- -Lord/Judge/King

We all relate more instinctively or naturally to a certain face of Jesus

- Story: installing car stereo

always have bolts left

the one thing we miss, sometimes the obvious (the power switch usually)

- The same can be fore the different faces of Jesus. what seems like th obvious one can drift into the background, but we need to be careful to hold them all equally because they each have something different to say to us.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (NLT)

³ But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. ⁴ You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.

Cult Jesus.

Some of you may have been told, "Well all religions basically believe the same thing." Not about Jesus they don't.

- liberal Christian = “Jesus is a good man, but not the God man. Maybe the best man who’s ever lived, but not God.”
- Jehovah’s Witness, = “Jesus is a created being. He’s actually the archangel Michael.”
- Mormon = “He’s not eternal God, but he’s a polygamist man who was the half brother of Lucifer that became one of many God’s.”
- New Ager, = Deepak Chopra who said, “I see Christ as a state of consciousness that we can all aspire to.”

Jesus of the world religions.

Don’t all religions basically believe the same thing?”

- Muslim, = “Jesus is a manifestation of God, or perhaps a prophet of God, but inferior to Mohamed and Bahá'u'lláh.” That’s what they will say.
- Buddhist = “Jesus is not God, but he’s an enlightened man much like the Buddha.”
- Christian Scientist = Mary Baker = “Jesus Christ is not God.”

Significant others

- Fredrick Nietzsche, = “Jesus died too soon. If he had lived to my age, he would have repudiated his doctrine.”
 - Nietzsche said, “Too bad Jesus died young. Had he lived awhile longer, he would have been a good atheist like me.”
- Mikhail Gorbachev = “Jesus Christ was the first socialist.”
- Adolf Hitler
 - In boundless love as a Christian and as a man, I read how terrific was Jesus’ fight for the world against the Jewish poison.”
 - Hitler says, “I love Jesus. He was a good Nazi.”
- Mahatma Gandhi = “I can not say that Jesus was uniquely divine. He was as much God as Krishna or Ramah or Mohamed or Zoroaster. He was just a good spiritual man like me.”

Key question for today- what should my response be to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God

- Jesus: the world is very comfortable with the existitence of Jesus

- History is divided by him
- His Physical existence is rarely challenged
- His teachings are widely accepted,
- many consider him a prophet or guide
- And the World at large is pretty comfortable with him being a good man
- Mahatma Gandhi = “I can not say that Jesus was uniquely divine. He was as much God as Krishna or Ramah or Mohamed or Zoroaster. He was just a good spiritual man like me.”

The Problem is he is either the son of God or crazy

Because of the claims he made

- He ultimately was put to death because of that ministry as he continually said “I am God,” which is the subject that we will be examining in greater detail this evening.

Lets Un pack his claims about his Sonship

His Birth- Virign

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you! [a]”

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel [b] forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

34 Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she’s now in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God. [c]”

38 Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her

Gods testimony in public regarding him

This is my son, baptism, and transfiguration

Mark 1:9-11,

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. 10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him^[a] like a dove. 11 And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

Mark 9:7

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him.”

His Followers Testimony

Peters declaration

Matthew 16:13-16

3 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”^[a]

14 “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

15 Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[b] the Son of the living God.”

His Killers Testimony

Luke 23:47

When the Roman officer^[a] overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.^[b]”

The Bible's Testimony

the word became flesh

john 1:1-14

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

*The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

*3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.*

*4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,[a]
and his life brought light to everyone.*

*5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.[b]*

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist,[c] 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

14 So the Word became human[d] and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness.[e] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

2 philippians 5-11

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

*6 Though he was God,[a]
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.*

*7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges[b];
he took the humble position of a slave[c]
and was born as a human being.*

*When he appeared in human form,[d]
8 he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

*9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,*

*10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

His Own Testimony

1. Heaven is my home

John 6:39-42 (NLT)

³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

⁴¹ Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"*

- unique statement - many claim to have seen heaven Jesus claims to have come from heaven
- Even among the world religions, there are only a handful of people who say - those who are spiritual and religious leaders - "I have seen into heaven."
- Here is a huge distinction
 - All other religions have a basic dynamic of a man reaching up
 - Jesus is God reaching down

2. More than just a good man.

Mark 10:17-18 (NLT) As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good."

- Jesus is saying, "I'm not a good person. I'm God, and I am not just one of the decent citizens of the earth. I'm far more than that."
- Jesus is saying, "If you think I am God, then you can also call me good, but don't split between me being God and me being good and just say that I'm good, unless you're also acknowledging that I am God, because only God is good."
- Every man has sinned so good doesn't cut it.

4. Jesus performed miracles.

John 10:36-39 (NLT)

36 why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. 37 Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. 38 But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." 39 Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them.

- What is blasphemy?
- That is when a human being says, "I am God."
- Jesus repeatedly, emphatically, continually said, "I am God."

The reason he was put to death was for the crime of blasphemy

- Jesus' miracles include turning water into wine, walking on water, calming a storm, healing the sick, enabling the lame to walk, enabling the blind to see, etc
- It also included calling Lazarus out of his grave and bring the dead man back to life.
- And Jesus says, "If you don't believe my words, look at my deeds. They are congruent with what I am saying.
- I am God and I have authority over everything - the wind, the seas, the elements, food, and death. I have authority over all things.
- Jesus' greatest miracle was his resurrection from death

5. Jesus said he was God.

Mark 14:61-64 (The Message)

Jesus was silent. He said nothing.

The Chief Priest tried again, this time asking, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?"

⁶² Jesus said, "Yes, I am, and you'll see it yourself:

The Son of Man seated

At the right hand of the Mighty One,

Arriving on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³⁻⁶⁴ The Chief Priest lost his temper. Ripping his clothes, he yelled, "Did you hear that? After that do we need witnesses? You heard the blasphemy. Are you going to stand for it?"

They condemned him, one and all. The sentence: death.

- People say, "Jesus never said he was God."

- His statement here very clear

John 8:58 (The Message)

58 “Believe me,” said Jesus, “I am who I am long before Abraham was anything.”

Where did that statement come from?

- It came from the days of Moses - roughly 1,400 years before the birth of Jesus - where Moses was out in the middle of nowhere and a bush on fire
- Moses asked the obvious question, “Can I tell him who sent me?”
- And so God speaking through the bush says, “Tell him ‘I Am’ has sent you.”
- This incredibly sacred name for God that Orthodox Jews wouldn’t even utter for fear of committing the sin of blasphemy.
- Jesus says, “I Am.” This is a clear statement that he is God. He’s the one who existed 1,400 years prior and spoke to Moses and delivered God’s people from slavery and bondage in Egypt.

John 10:30-33 (The Message) I and the Father are one heart and mind.” Again the Jews picked up rocks to throw at him. Jesus said, “I have made a present to you from the Father of a great many good actions. For which of these acts do you stone me?” The Jews said, “We’re not stoning you for anything good you did, but for what you said—this blasphemy of calling yourself God.”

- Throughout the history of the human race, there have actually been a very short list of people who have said they are God.
- There is no world religion founded by anyone who said they are God other than Christianity and Jesus who said “I am God.”
- Mohamed said, “I’m not God.”
- Buddha said, “I’m not God.”
- Krishna said, “I’m not God.”
- Gandhi said, “I’m not God.”
- Jesus said, “I’m God.”

6. Jesus kept confirming he was God

Matthew 26:60-65 (The Message)

But even though many stepped up, making up one false accusation after another, nothing was believable. Finally two men came forward with this: “He said, ‘I can tear down this Temple of God and after three days rebuild it.’ ”

The Chief Priest stood up and said, “What do you have to say to the accusation?” Jesus kept silent.

Then the Chief Priest said, “I command you by the authority of the living God to say if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” Jesus was curt: “You yourself said it. And that’s not all. Soon you’ll see it for yourself:

The Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Mighty One, Arriving on the clouds of heaven.”

At that, the Chief Priest lost his temper, ripping his robes, yelling, “He blasphemed! Why do we need witnesses to accuse him? You all heard him blaspheme!

- He quotes Daniel 7 again.
- Result: Why do we need any more witnesses?
- Now you have heard the blasphemy.’”

7. Jesus said he was sinless.

8. Jesus said that he could forgive sin.

9. Jesus told people to pray to him as God.

10. Jesus promised to judge all people as God.

11. Jesus said he is the only way to heaven.

This establishes a strong enough argument for me to believe he was who he said he was- i do not see any sense in a motivation for him to lie, or the wirters of the scripture to lie.

so if you are happy we will move onto the key question

what should my response be to the Truth that Jesus was the son of God?

- That is the question that Jesus is asking you today.

Jesus is the name of the God that cam looking for me

- All other religions are yet to see the flesh of the God they follow, they wait for you to find them, my God came looking for me. He made the first move and continues to.
- This is a testament to his immense love for us

- A love that is so deep and profound we can only scratch the surface of understanding it with our broken ideas of love
- A love that cannot get bigger as it is complete, and cannot shrink away as its not based on emotion.
- A love that envelopes the whole world, but also singles you out

2 philippians 5-11

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

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*he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.*

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges[b];

*he took the humble position of a slave[c]
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When he appeared in human form,[d]

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and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor

and gave him the name above all other names,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

romans 8:31-39

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") [a] 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's

love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

natural, pure response to love is trust

- a child and parents
- a boy who proves his love- ‘the story of the ring/marriage’
- a friend

- every decision in the life of a disciple/follower of Jesus when being obedient or faithful is not the obvious, logical, easy decision to make comes down to trust

Teenager metaphor

- do we believe in the moment that God can be trusted, he has our best interests at heart and knows what he is on about.
- Can he be trusted?
-
- early part of our journey- scriptural principles, commands and exhortations
- Then our identity
- then as we become familiar with his voice, those specific things he speaks to us
-

proverbs 3

My child,[a] never forget the things I have taught you.

Store my commands in your heart.

*2 If you do this, you will live many years,
and your life will be satisfying.*

3 Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!

Tie them around your neck as a reminder.

Write them deep within your heart.

*4 Then you will find favor with both God and people,
and you will earn a good reputation.*

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.*

- 6 Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.*
- 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.
Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.*
- 8 Then you will have healing for your body
and strength for your bones.*
- 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.*
- 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain,
and your vats will overflow with good wine.*
- 11 My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline,
and don't be upset when he corrects you.*
- 12 For the Lord corrects those he loves,
just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.*

Prayer