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Inviting all to **COME** to Christ, **GROW** in faith, and **GO** change the world

John 5:15-30 – “The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. ¹⁶ And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. ¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁹ Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. ²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: ²³ That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. ²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. ²⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. ²⁶ For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷ And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. ³⁰ I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

GOSPEL OF JOHN - The Son

Part Eighteen

Intro – Video: [“What Are You Going to do With Jesus?”](#)



That’s a huge question, maybe life’s biggest question. Another question might be “Who Is Jesus?”

He’s the most loved and hated individual in human history. No one in history has had a larger impact than Jesus Christ. Nobody. Billions of people around the planet today are gathering to sing praises to him, worship him, to learn of Him, to have their lives transformed by Him. Every time you write a date down you are reminded of His significance. Time ... very time ... is divided by His first appearance. It is amazing the impact He has! When you consider His life, He was born in relative obscurity to a teenage peasant girl, he probably did manual labor, given His dad was a carpenter. He never really owned anything of any value, He never traveled more than a few hundred miles from the place He was born, He never held political office, had a wife of His own, yet he changed the world. No one ever had as much significance as Jesus Christ.

It is comforting to know that He understands what I’m going through. He knows what it’s like to be lonely, be in pain, be hungry, homeless, be betrayed. He gets it. He was much more than a man, He

was very God in the flesh! [1Timothy 3:16](#) – Great is the mystery of Godliness. God was manifest in the flesh ... and that was Jesus Christ.

There are many different “religious” views of who Jesus was – let me share a few of them.

- Buddhism says Jesus wasn't God, just an enlightened man liked Buddha.
- Islam says that Jesus was merely a man and a prophet who was inferior to Muhhamad.
- Mathatma Ghandi said Jesus was not uniquely divine.
- Jehovah's Witnesses say Jesus was an archangel, a created being that became a man.
- Mormons say Jesus was not God but only a man who became one of many gods and was the half brother of Lucifer.
- Unitarians say Jesus wasn't God but rather a great man teaching love, justice and healing.

Those are just a few of the common views of who Jesus was. So you can see ... kind of all over the board. The deity of Christ is an important issue to Christianity. In fact, much of what we believe in in Christianity hinges upon the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh. If we get off of track here, we are in the world of trouble. The deity of Jesus is what makes Him unique ... the fact that He was very God in the flesh.

I want to turn our attention this morning, as we make our way through the gospel of John, to a passage where Jesus begins to talk about His relationship to the Father ... His equality, His uniqueness. You may recall in the first part of John Chapter 5, Jesus does one of the first miracles recorded by healing an impotent man who had been sitting by a pool of water 38 years, crippled by his disease, and Jesus healed him ... the catch is, though, that He did it on the Sabbath Day. That healing on the Sabbath Day causes the religious leaders of Israel to go into a tizzy because he violated the Sabbath, and they begin to question the man Jesus healed.

John 5:15-30 (above)

Equal with God

You can see how enraged the Jews are. They want to persecute and kill Him for what He's done. Here's a guy who is crippled for 38 years and Jesus miraculously tells him to arise and walk ... and their problem is that He did it on the Sabbath Day! The comments that follow are Jesus' defense of His actions and a summary of a few ways that He is unique and equal with God.

Christ was equal with God. He claims He is the very Son of God and **Verse 18** says He made Himself equal with God. He said because God is doing a work, I am doing a work also. He said He's not breaking the Sabbath because God always works on the Sabbath!

God is always at work. In fact, does your grass stop growing on the Sabbath? Mine doesn't. Do the trees stop bearing fruit on the Sabbath? No! All of creation is operating and working ... God is the Creator and sustainer of all of Creation. He is always at work!

Colossians 1:16-17 - *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*

By Jesus all things were created. “Consist” means “held together”. He created it all, it was all created for Him and by Him and He’s The One that’s holding it all together. The molecules in your body are being held together by Jesus Christ! If He stops working, we’re in trouble!

There’s a common deist view that says God is like a big clockmaker ... he made it, put it in motion and now He’s just standing back watching it wind down. No, He doesn’t stop working.

Acts 17:28 - *“For in him we live, and move, and have our being;...”*

He is addressing a group at Mars Hill. Jesus is more than just a nice guy and good, moral teacher. No! He’s holding it all together. Jesus was equal with God in His work. He does the will of God because they are equal with one another.

Look at **John 5:30** – He was all about doing God’s will. God’s will was His will, they are inseparable. The very first words that Jesus uttered in Scripture –

Luke 2:49 - *“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”*

They were also equal in knowledge – “sheweth him in all things.” If they weren’t equal in knowledge, it would be like a calculus major trying to share knowledge with me!

Another way Jesus is unique – His ability to give life.

Ability to Give Life

Jesus came to give life to humanity ... we are all dead in our trespasses and sins. He literally spoke life into a dead man. In our case, He came and gave us a spiritual resurrection because we are spiritually dead.

John 5:1-15 – *“After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. ³ In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴ For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. ⁵ And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? ⁷ The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. ⁸ Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. ⁹ And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. ¹⁰ The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. ¹¹ He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. ¹² Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? ¹³ And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. ¹⁵ The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.”*

Ephesians 2:1 - *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”*

“Quickened” means “made alive”. You were dead in trespasses and sins. We were spiritually dead. We needed someone else to give us life ... spiritual life. When we heard the gospel, believed it and called upon His name, life came into us. We went from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive. His Holy Spirit lives within the saved. Does that not give you joy? He came for that very purpose. No one has ever had the ability to do that but Jesus. In the future, He will give us a physical resurrection.

Authority to Judge

At some point in time in the future, every person who has ever lived is going to stand before God in judgment. Scripture calls it the Great White Throne Judgment. Everyone will be judged, not so much of guilt or innocence but a sentencing.

Romans 2:16 - *“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”*

What’s He going to judge? The secrets of men ... those things nobody else knows about. Yes, those things! All of it is going to be judged by God, by Jesus Christ. He says there’s going to be a group that’s done good (**Verse 29**) and they’re going to come to a resurrection of Christ. To “do good” means to those that heard and believed. To “do evil” are the ones who heard and rejected Jesus Christ. God is black-and-white on that. Again, **what are you going to do with Jesus?** Are you going to receive Him or reject Him? He’s either God in the flesh or not. He also promises that His judgment is just (**vs. 30**). No one will be able to claim they have been mistreated. They won’t be able to argue that His judgment is just.

Revelation 20:11-15 – *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

Acts 10:38 - *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”*

Paul is addressing a group on Mars Hill and says --

Acts 17:31-33 – *“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.”³³ So Paul departed from among them.”*

“that man” is Jesus Christ. Paul says there is coming a day ... He hath appointed a day ... we have an appointment with God and we’re not canceling it. We’re all going to stand. Believers have a different judgment ... The Judgment Seat of Christ ... where believers are judged for their service. But there is coming a judgment for those who don’t know Christ and He’s going to judge in righteousness. He’s the Creator, Sustainer and Just Judge.

The following is a short excerpt from *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis –

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Well said. We can’t say Jesus was one among many. The claims He made about Himself force us into a place of decision. As I see it, we have four options with Christ.

Four choices with Jesus...

1. Legend – It’s all a fairy tale, a fable, a story that people have made up and passed down from generation to generation.
2. Liar – Jesus was a liar. He was lying for the purpose of deceiving those he was speaking to.
3. Lunatic. He was a little off in the head!
4. Lord – He is Lord!

One of those four have got to be true. I would encourage you to do some research. One of the first three choices is often chosen because we want to live a certain lifestyle. If we do our homework ... it’s amazing to me that people will do more research in purchasing a car than they will take the time to look into the facts and reality about Jesus and God Almighty. I would challenge you to do the homework!

If He’s Lord, then that changes the game, doesn’t it? We’ve got to admit, if Jesus was God, He has every right to expect us to come to Him on His terms, yes? We should just be thankful that there is a way to come to Him. He has every right, if He is Lord, to say “I am the way.” Not one way, THE way. He has every right to say ‘I am the truth’ and ‘I am life’.

The question remains: What are you going to do with the outlandish claims of Jesus? This isn’t about church, about religion or Christians, it’s about Jesus! You don’t have to go very far to find problems with the church or issues with Christianity. You don’t have to go very far at all to find problems with Christians, but this is about Jesus.

The question we must all wrestle with is “Who is Jesus and what am I going to do with Him?” That pertains to our salvation but it also pertains to our life as a believer.

“And why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things that I say?” ([Luke 6:46](#)) If the claims He made of Himself are true and genuine, if the truth of Scripture are truths, that should alter the way we do life. If I genuinely believe that I’m going to stand before God Almighty someday and my secrets are going to be judged. Ought that alter the way I’m doing life?

What are you going to do with Jesus? Are you going to make Him Lord of your life and place Him in His rightful position? Or keep doing what you're doing? The choice is yours, but I would encourage you to make Him Lord of your life. I've never regretted that decision of making Jesus my Lord and follow Him as a disciple. Ever. It's the best choice you could possibly ever make!

Have you accepted Jesus’ gift of eternal life? If you’ve never trusted Christ as your Saviour, [Click here for information on how to spend eternity in heaven.](#) Jesus has the ability to breathe life into your dead soul by believing Jesus as Your Saviour, by confessing and calling upon His name to save you.

Challenge: Believers, meditate on **Philippians 2:9-11** this week. It summarizes well the things that we’ve discussed this morning. Think about Who He is, and Who He is to you. Is He Lord of your life in every area?

Weekly Meditation Passage

Philippians 2:9-11 – *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Jesus is Lord! Let that fact alter the way we live. It was enough to save us, but it’s also enough to change the way we live.

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Father, we thank You for Jesus Christ, we thank You for the chance to worship You, to praise You and learn more of You. We pray that You would continue to do a work in our hearts and change us for Your glory. I pray that You would be more and more the Lord of our Life and help us get rid of the things in our life we need to get rid of. Become the focus of our life ... we get distracted so easily! Help us to follow You completely in every area. Speak loudly into our lives and change us. We love You and give You all the honor, glory and praise, and ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

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♪ ♪ [All I once held dear](#) ♪ ♪

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The preceding notes were taken from a sermon by Brad Nelson, Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The notes are in no way endorsed by Pastor Nelson, but are shared for the benefit of furthering God's kingdom. Feel free to share with anyone you are led by the Spirit to do so. Any errors or discrepancies contained in this document, although not intended, are those of the transcriber.