

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

MATTHEW 16:13-16 • TV219A

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By

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Matthew 16:13-16

“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

I am looking at a question; **“Who is Jesus Christ?”** That is today’s message, the person of Christ, **“Who is Jesus Christ?”**

In **Matthew 16:13**, our Lord asks His disciples; *“who do men say that I the Son of Man am?”* They said, *“Some say that you are John the Baptist and some say that you are Elijah and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

Christ said to them; *“But who say ye that I the Son of Man am?”* Peter answered and said; *“Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God.”* That is what I am asking myself and I am asking you today, **“Who is Jesus Christ?”**

This man Jesus of Nazareth, of which there is no denying, was born and lived on this earth. This man, Jesus of Nazareth, was born in poverty. He was born and laid in a manger *“because there was no room for them in the inn.”*

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He was raised in obscurity, in a simple village called, Nazareth, of which one man said, *“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”*

He was the son of an unmarried, Jewish woman. His foster father was a carpenter and was a very inconspicuous man, unknown man. He was not influential.

Jesus of Nazareth had no formal training or college education. He never traveled over 90 miles from His home. He never owned a house or owned a piece of ground or a piece of property. He never held a public office.

His friends were all poor, unknown, people. Some of them were fisherman, shepherds, and other people. His only possession was the robe on His back.

He traveled about with these disciples preaching the Kingdom of God. He went about healing the sick. The Scripture says, *“He went about doing good.”*

At 33 years of age, He was accused of violating the Law of Moses. He was accused of preaching heresy and He was accused of seeking to be King. Upon the testimony of false witnesses, He was sentenced to be crucified on a Roman cross.

There were 12 disciples, and that was the inner circle. One of them sold Him for \$18.00. Another one denied that he ever knew Him and the rest of them forsook Him and fled.

During His dying hour, according to His own words, His own testimony, *“He was forsaken of God.”* He cried at the end of that six hour of suffering; *“My God, My God; why hast thou forsaken me?”*

He was taken down from the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb. This man, Jesus of Nazareth, never wrote a book and yet more books have been written about Him than any other subject.

This man, Jesus of Nazareth, of which I am talking about in His fleshly sojourn, never wrote a song (I know that He wrote as God, the Word). Yet, He has been the theme of more songs than all subjects combined.

He never founded a college and yet all the colleges in the world cannot boast of His many students as those who studied at His feet.

He never went to Medical School and yet He healed more broken hearts and broken bodies than all physicians put together.

Satan could not seduce Him. Religious leaders could not answer Him. Lawyers and scribes could not entangle Him in His words, though they tried. Pilate said, when He was on trial; *“I can find no fault in Him.”*

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Death could not destroy Him and the grave could not hold Him. Who is this man? Who is Jesus Christ of Nazareth?

The whole world will admit and agree that He is the most unusual man who ever lived; as they said, "*Never man spake like this man,*" never.

And the whole world will agree that His life on this earth was holy and above reproach. His works were done by the power of God. Nicodemus said, "*No man could do what you do except God be with him.*"

His teachings were the purest and the holiest set forth. Since He walked on this earth, the controversy has never ceased. There has been no end to the controversy around His head. Who is this man Jesus of Nazareth?

Four questions need to be asked:

First of all: Who is He?

Secondly: What did He do? Really, what did He do? Did He die as frustrated reformer? Did He just give His life as a martyr? Did He come to accomplish something and fail? What did He do?

Thirdly: The third issue concerning this man is why did He do it? Why did He come here? Why did He do what He did?

Fourthly: I ask you this question; where is He now?

First of all: Who is He? He stood outside the Judgment Hall. They brought Him early that morning and woke Pilate up.

These Jews, these Israelite leaders, these religious people, would not go into the Judgment Hall because it was approaching the Sabbath Day. They didn't want to defile themselves on this holy season.

So, they brought this man Jesus of Nazareth and stood outside the Judgment Hall. They called Pilate out early in the morning. Pilate came out there and they had several accusations brought against Christ.

Someone hollered out and said this; "*He said that He is the Son of God; that is what He said, He is the Son of God.*" The Scripture says "*Pilate was frightened. He was upset and this troubled him greatly.*"

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He called Jesus of Nazareth into the Judgment Hall and he confronted Him. He said, *“Who are you and where did you come from? I want to know where you came from.”* That is the question that I am asking, who is He and where did He come from?

He didn't answer Pilate. *“He answered him not a word.”* The Scripture says, *“He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.”* He did not answer.

Secondly: What did He do? When they brought Him back out from the Judgment Hall before the people, another fellow hollered out from the crowd, *“We found this fellow stirring up the people. We found this fellow perverting the people. He forbids people to pay tribute to Caesar saying that he, himself, is King.”* They were saying, “This man is a troublemaker.”

Is that what He did? In the time that He was upon this earth, did He go about perverting people, stirring up people, and trying to take a throne from Caesar? Was He trying to establish a kingdom here on this earth? Is that what He did?

Thirdly: Why did He do it? Why did Caesar allow them to abuse Him when just at His Word, He could have annihilated the whole crowd? *“He could have called ten thousands of angels.”* That is what He said to the disciples; *“don't you know?”*

One of His disciples pulled his sword to defend the Master in the Garden of Gethsemane. He said to the disciple; *“put up your sword; don't you know that I could call on my Father and he would send a legion of angels?”*

Why did He put up with it? Pilate asked Him that; he took Him back into the Judgment Hall and said, *“Why don't you answer me? Don't you know that I have the power to crucify you or let you go?”*

What Pilate meant was, “why don't you answer me? Why do you permit these people to lie on you and not defend yourself? Why do you allow these soldiers to slap your face and lacerate your back? Why do you allow these folks to spit in your face?”

“Why do you allow all of this abuse and these indignities? Is it true that you saved others and you can't save yourself?” Why do you put up with it?”

That is my question. Who is He? What did He do? Why did He do it?

Fourthly: Then, the question is; where is He now? When He was hanging on that cross, these people walked around the cross mocking, laughing, and jeering Him. The Scripture says; *“They shot out their lips and said, he trusted God; let's see if God will have Him?”* They wondered that if He called on God, if God would own Him; “let's see if God Almighty will own Him.”

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Where is He now? Did God own Him? Did God have Him? We know He died and we know that they took Him down from the tree and put Him in a tomb. What happened then? Where is He now?

I want to answer these four, vital, questions for you. I want you to listen to me very carefully because He is the issue; Christ is the issue.

It is not a denomination. It is not even a system of theology. It is not a program of prophecy. Those are not the issues. It is not even your attitude toward the law or no law.

The question is, *“who is Jesus Christ; what think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He? God is going to judge the world by that man whom they crucified and have slain. Peter said, “The Lord hath made him both Lord and Christ.”*

Here is the first question: Who is Jesus Christ? Who is Jesus of Nazareth? Who is this man called *“the Christ?”* I answer that under three heads:

First of all: He is God Almighty.

Don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that He is the only Son of God or that He is only a messenger of God or an ambassador of God. What I am saying is that He Himself is God Almighty.

I know that there are a lot of people who reject and deny what we call the Trinity. They say that the word Trinity does not occur in the Bible one time. You are right; it does not but the truth of it does.

You can go all the way back to Genesis. God said, *“Let us make man.”* With whom was He speaking? *“Let us make man in our own image.”*

When the Lord Jesus Christ was here on the earth, at His baptism, the Son was in the water when the Father spoke from heaven and said; *“this is my beloved Son.”* Then the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove.

When He was departing, He told His disciples; *“go into all the world and preach the gospel and baptize men in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”*

On another occasion He said, *“As My Father sent me, even so, send I you and I will pray the Holy Spirit, another comforter, who will come.”* The Scripture in **1 John** says, *“There are three that bare record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit.”*

So, my friends; I don't understand the trinity. The Lord our God is one God and there is one appearance of God and that is Jesus Christ. He is God. The angel said, *“Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.”*

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This is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah who said; *“behold the Lord Himself will give you a sign; a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and thou shall call His name Immanuel, which being interpreted is God with us.”*

The angels who announced His birth to the shepherds said, *“Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.”* In **John 10:30**, He said; *“I and My Father are one.”* The disciples said, *“Show us the Father.”* He said, *“He that hath seen me has seen my Father.”*

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and all things were made by Him; without Him was nothing made that was made.” He said to the Father; *“Glorify me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”*

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? He is God incarnate. He is God in human flesh. The Father said to the Son; *“Thy throne O God is forever.”* That is what I am saying and that is what the Scripture declares.

Jesus of Nazareth is God who visited this earth in the *“likeness of sinful flesh.”* God came to earth and He reconciled us unto Himself in Christ. God was in Christ. *“He purchased the church with His own blood.”*

Second: He is God and He is the Christ.

Those words are used often in the New Testament. The nation of Israel was looking for the Christ. All the way from **Genesis 3:15**, when God promised that *“the seed of woman would bruise the serpent’s head,”* the Jewish nation all the way back to that promise, was looking for a Messiah.

They were looking for who would be the seed of woman, the seed of Abraham, the tribe of Judah, the family of Jesse and the household of David. They were also looking at who would be a prophet like Moses, a priest like Melchisedek and a king like David.

The whole, Old Testament, declares that someone is coming. That someone along with the four Gospels say that someone has come in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The epistles say that He is coming again. Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King; He is the Christ.

Who is this man Jesus of Nazareth? He is God Almighty and He is God in human flesh. He is the Christ. He is the Redeemer; He is our Righteousness. He is the Branch; He is the Lord our Banner. He is the Lord and the Lamb provided. He is Jehovah, God my Saviour.

That is what the Lord said, *“Who do you say that I the Son of man am?”* Peter said, *“Thou art the Christ.”* The woman at the well who left her water pot and went down to

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the village, said, *“Come see a man that has told me everything I have done. Is not this the Christ?”*

The Scripture says in **1 John 2:22**; *“Who is a liar?”* We often say of a man that he is a liar. We will say, “He lied, she lied.” Do you know who a liar is? God defines a liar and who is a liar. A liar is *“he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ. The same is both a liar and an antichrist.”*

Let that sink in and let me give you that text again so you can go find it; **1 John 2:22**, *“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ?”* God doesn’t stop there, He says; *“He is both a liar and he is an antichrist.”*

Third: He is God; He is the Christ and He is our representative. He is our federal head.

I teach imputation and impartation. I must because the Bible teaches that; *“in Adam we die; in Christ we are made alive. By man came death; by man came the resurrection. As we bore the image of the earthy, first Adam, we shall bear the image of the heavenly, the second Adam.”*

“By one man’s disobedience we were made sinners. By another man’s obedience we were made righteous.” That is what the Word of God teaches. In the first Adam, my federal head is in the flesh. In the second Adam, which is Christ, is my federal head is in the Spirit. He is my representative.

Not only that; He is my righteousness and He is my holiness of which I have to have before the Father, before the Law, and before God’s throne. I have to have holiness and I have to have righteousness. Christ provides it. Christ purchased it. Christ Jesus fulfilled it in His life on the earth.

God is my sin-offering. *“By one offering He hath perfected forever, them that are sanctified.”* He is my life.

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? He is God. He is the Christ and He is *“our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification and our redemption.”*

Thirdly: What did He do?

I will tell you what He did; being God He has done all that God has done and is doing and will do, in that He is God. What the Father does the Son does it also. What the Son does the Father does and the Holy Spirit does.

Colossians 1:15 says, *“He is the image of the invisible God. He is the first born of every creature. For by Him were all things created that are created in heaven and earth,*

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invisible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and power. He is before all things and by Him all things consist."

As God, what did He do? He does everything that is done as God. What I am talking about as a man, Jesus Christ, here on the earth, in the flesh, what did He do?

As our Surety and as a man His office work started before the world began; that's right, before the world began. His actual manifestation, revelation, and coming unto the earth, came 2,000 years ago. *"He was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world."* **Revelation 13:8** tells you that.

"He is the surety of an eternal covenant." His blood *"is the blood of an everlasting covenant."* So; as our Representative and our Surety and Lamb, Christ took up that work before He took up the work of creating the world. That's right!

Then, in Old Testament types, He stood in picture in those Old Testament types. *"Christ is our Passover."* That Passover is a picture of Christ. That Rock was Christ. Abel's offering, the blood sacrifice, was Christ.

He gave to these sacrifices, meaning, life, and power. Without Him Abel had no forgiveness because the blood of that animal certainly couldn't put away Abel's sin. You can't pacify a Holy God with the blood of a sheep, lamb, ram, or a goat.

"Abel, by faith, offered a lamb." That faith was not looking at this animal's blood but it was looking to the blood of God's Lamb who would come.

That is what Abraham said to Isaac; *"my son, God will provide himself a lamb."* In the meantime we will offer this one until that Lamb comes. So you see; Christ gave life, power, and meaning to these Old Testament types.

When He came here in the flesh and walked this earth; listen to this Scripture in **Galatians 4**, *"in the fullness of the time, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law,"* that is, in submission to the law, under the rule of the law, in obedience to the law.

God was subject to the law. *"He was made under the law that He might redeem them that were born under the law."* In other words; Jesus Christ was subject to God's law as a man in the flesh.

He said; *"I didn't come to destroy the law; I came to fulfill it."* Every jot and tittle must be fulfilled. *"He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* As a man, He fulfilled every law. *"He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin."*

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He took our sins and died on the cross. Christ on this earth must not only work out for me a perfect righteousness and holiness by His life but the justice of God says, *“I must die.”* God will not only punish sin, He has to punish sin and He must punish sin. *“He can in no way clear the guilty.”*

So, Christ took our sins and paid for them, by one sacrifice, by one sin offering. You might say, “Well; how can one man die for so many men?” It is because of who He is.

He was buried and He arose again. He was buried as our scapegoat and He arose as our justifier. *“Who is He that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who intercedes for us.”* That is what He did.

Fourthly: Now the question comes; why did He do it? Why did He subject Himself to such humiliation?

You know; God condescended to become a man. If an angel became a worm, you might say, “what condescension!” That is not anything like God becoming a man. He came down here in the flesh. He was born and lived on this earth and died for our sins.

Why did He take the spittle, the persecution, the agony, ridicule, and the soul agony? I will tell you why; it was to save His people from their sins. That is why He came. The angel said, *“He shall save His people from their sins.”*

Paul said, *“He came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.”* That is why He did it, to save us from our sins, to fulfill the law and honor God’s justice.

I will tell you this; He did it because we couldn’t do it. Salvation is impossible with men. We can’t please a holy God. *“In the flesh dwelleth no good thing.”*

You can’t with your rituals of religion, your tithes, your offerings, and your dos and don’ts pacify and satisfy a Holy God. Christ did it through His perfect obedience. He said, *“This is my Son in whom I am well pleased.”*

He was the only one who could do it. *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid in Christ. None other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.”*

He did these things that *“God may be just and justifier.”* That is why He did it. That is why Christ suffered, He had to. If God Almighty is to redeem a sinner then He has to redeem that sinner in keeping with and in honor with His law and His justice.

That’s right! You need to look into that in **Romans 3**. It will help you if you will go over there and read **Romans 3: 9 through 26**.

Here is the fourth question: “Where is He now?”

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Jesus Christ is God. He became the God-man. He became our representative. He suffered, bled, and died for our sins. He did it that, *“God may be just and justifier.”*

He was taken down from that cross and placed in that tomb, a borrowed tomb, in which no man had laid. God rolled away the stone and He arose from the grave.

Where is He now? Listen to the Scriptures, **Hebrews 1:3**; *“Who being the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself, alone, purged our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

That is where He is; He is on the right hand of the Majesty on high. That is the hand of love. That is the hand of acceptance. That is the hand of glory and honor.

Christ, having finished His work, sat down. **Hebrews 9:24** says, *“For Christ is not entered into the holy place made with hands but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

My friend; there is one God. You might say you believe that. *“There is one Mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus.”* He is our Mediator. He is the one Mediator.

Therefore, the Scripture says; *“seeing we have such a High Priest, let us come boldly before the throne of grace that we may find grace and mercy to help in time of need.”*

What is He doing at the right hand of God? He is praying for us; *“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also make intercession for us.”*

He said, *“Peter; I pray for you.”* He says the same thing to every believer today; *“I pray for you!”*