

Jesus is God - Matthew 16:13-18
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Today we begin a new sermon series titled Jesus Is. Unlike our typical approach and unlike an amazing expository journey through the entire book of Acts, (a journey that lasted 50 sermons) This will be a topical series in which we will explore who Jesus is. Over the next several weeks will see that Jesus Is God and at the same time Jesus is Human, looking at the Humanity of Christ. We will see that Jesus is Messiah, our Savior. On Easter we will see Jesus is Sacrifice. Jesus is Priest, Prophet and King! And we will see that Jesus is ALIVE, Jesus is Coming back and Jesus is Exclusively our way to eternal life! I cannot think of a more important time for us to learn as much as we can about who Jesus is!

If you have ever had the experience of mistaking someone for someone else, you know that can be an embarrassing situation. But as Trip Lee points out in the Forward of Greg Gilbert's book titled "Who Is Jesus?", when you are mistaken about the identity of Jesus, there is way more at stake than your embarrassment and ego. The consequences are eternal.

So exactly who is Jesus anyway? Throughout history, He has been dismissed as just a nice man and teacher with good morals. He has been called a prophet while others call him a deranged lunatic. But the evidence points to the fact that Jesus is God! Consider the miracles! Jesus demonstrated He was Omnipotent numerous times. He showed His power over nature by turning water into wine, calming the storm, walking on water, healing numerous people and even raising the dead! He demonstrates His Omniscience in knowing people's thoughts (Mark 2:8), seeing Nathaniel under the fig tree from far off (John 1:48) and when he knew who would betray him (John 6:64). Jesus asserts his eternal nature in John 8:58 when he tells the Pharisees that "Before Abraham was, I am." And finally, Jesus demonstrates power over life and death itself by laying down his life and three days later taking it up again. These attributes, considered collectively, can only belong to God himself. Which leads us to the most important question ever asked!

In Matthew 16, Jesus leads his disciples to Caesarea Philippi. This town was about 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and is the place where nearly all of the pagan of the day were worshiped. To this very day, those ancient altars and places of sacrifice to pagan gods still exist. It was here that Jesus asked his disciples two questions. "Who to men say that The Son of Man is?" And, "Who do YOU say that I am?" When Peter correctly confessed that Jesus is the Lord, the son of the living God, Jesus told him that he did not learn that from any human but by God. He also revealed how he would build his church by saying "...on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." While this statement has become very controversial, what Jesus was saying was Peter's confession that Jesus is Lord, that Jesus is God, is the very foundation of the church. And that his church, believers that gather based on this common belief that Jesus is Lord, can stand... even against the gates of hell itself. It is especially noteworthy that Jesus chose to make this statement in the shadow of a great earthly manifestation of the gates of hell... Caesarea Philippi.

Jesus' question, "Who do YOU say that I am?" is the most important question in history because every human that ever lived and that ever will live, has been confronted (or will be confronted) with that same question. And how we answer determines our eternity.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ecclesiastes 5	Ecclesiastes 6	Ecclesiastes 7	Ecclesiastes 8	Ecclesiastes 9	Ecclesiastes 10	Ecclesiastes

Reading from this past week: Matthew 16:13-18

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Romans 5:12-19, Luke 2:41-52

Family Worship

Song - *The Lion and the Lamb*

<https://youtu.be/5iuUFf4LOOE>

Gospel Project

Unit: In the Beginning

Story: Jesus was baptized.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us?

Answer: Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Scripture: Matthew 3, Mark 1

New City Catechism

Question #12: What does God require in the Ninth & Tenth Commandments?

Answer: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.

Verse: James 2:8

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-18

- Who does the world, in 2023, say Jesus is?
- Do you see any difference between the cultural view of Jesus today and how he was viewed in the first century?
- How did Jesus say he would build his church?
- Who do you say Jesus is?

Prayer

*Pray that we would worship Jesus as God and believe the truths the Bible reveals about the person and work of Christ.

*Pray that our church would continue to be a church planting church, and also pray about being generous by giving to our Church Plant Offering.