
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **"What do you think of Christ?"**

This is perhaps the greatest question which was ever asked in the pages of the Bible:

Matthew 22:41-46

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,
⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."
⁴³ He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying:
⁴⁴ 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" '?
⁴⁵ "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"
⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

When Jesus asked the Pharisees, "What do you think of Christ?" they immediately gave the correct answer without foreseeing the difficulty their answer would give them. They knew Christ would be the Son of David, but David in Psalms 110:1 called Christ his Lord. The point being made by Jesus is that a father does not usually bow down to his own son and call that son his Lord. If Christ was truly the Son of David, and yet David called this Son "Lord," then this Son must have been very special. He was no ordinary Son. He was in fact divine.

There are many opinions in the world today about Jesus. Some accept and worship Him as Lord and others reject Him. Some believe that He was a great prophet, but they will not admit that He is the Son of God in the sense of being equal in nature with God in heaven.

Jesus, of course, is not the only person that ever claimed to be divine, but He is the only One making such a claim that is convincing. What is your opinion of Christ? Have you yourself ever faced this great question which the Lord asked?

Let's consider what people have said about Christ.

SECULAR HISTORIANS

Ancient disciples such as Barnabas, Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp, wrote extensively about Jesus - His teachings and His life. They believed that He was truly the Son of God and they refused to retract their statements even under the penalty of death.

Josephus, a Jewish historian, who was never a follower of Jesus, admitted that Jesus was very extraordinary. Listen to what he wrote in his book, Antiquities of the Jews, Book XVIII, Chapter 3:

"Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works... . he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold."

Many other historians, some Christians and some not, wrote about Christ and admitted that He was no ordinary man.

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE SON OF GOD

What did Jesus say about Himself? Some people say that Jesus was misunderstood and that He personally did not claim to be divine and equal to God. They argue that Jesus' disciples became overzealous and made claims that Jesus Himself never made.

Let's investigate this quickly. Did Jesus Himself ever claim to be divine?

John 10:30

³⁰ "I and My Father are one."

When Jesus said this the Pharisees certainly got the point. They knew exactly what Jesus meant by this and it made them angry and they were ready to kill Jesus.

John 10:33

³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

When Jesus was on trial before the Jewish high priest, listen to what Jesus Himself said:

Mark 14:61-62

⁶¹ ... Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

⁶² Jesus said, "I am... ."

What could be plainer than this? Obviously Jesus was claiming to be more than just a mere man. He was claiming to be divine and equal with His Father in heaven.

- a) He claimed to be greater than the Scriptures. Several times He said, "You have heard that it was said ... but I say unto you." Thus, He claimed to be able to add to the teachings of God. Only God could do this!
- b) He claimed to be sinless. In John 8:46 He asked the Jews, "Which of you convicts me of sin?"
- c) He claimed to possess all authority that existed in heaven and in earth (Mt. 28:18). Only God could make such a claim!
- d) He claimed to be greater than Solomon, the wisest man to ever live (Lk. 11:32).
- e) He claimed that He existed with His Father before the world was ever made (Jn. 17:5).
- f) He claimed that He was greater than the greatest man in the Hebrew nation (Jn. 8:58).
- g) He claimed to be greater than the most sacred institutions of the Jewish religion. He claimed to be Lord even of the Sabbath (Mk. 2:28).

Besides what He claimed with His own mouth, look at the works He performed. He did miracles which no other man has been able to do.

He performed miracles demonstrating His power over nature. He calmed a storm by simply saying, "Peace, be still."

- a) He raised the dead -- some who had been dead for four days and were beginning to decay and stink.

- b) He walked on the surface of water.
- c) He fed 5000 men with just a few loaves of bread and two fish.
- d) He turned water into wine instantly.
- e) He raised Himself from the dead after three days (Jn. 10:18).

John 10:37-38

³⁷ "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

³⁸ "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

THE ENEMIES OF CHRIST ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

Even the enemies of Christ acknowledge that He was sinless and innocent and all crime and sin. They admitted that He was the divine Son of God.

- a) Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor said, "I find no fault in Him at all" (Jn. 18:38). His wife told Pilate, "Have nothing to do with that just man" (Mt. 27:19).
- b) Judas, a former disciple who had betrayed Jesus, later regretted what he had done, and even he said, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Mt. 27:4).
- c) The Jewish soldiers who went to arrest Christ, came back empty handed and told their rulers, "Never a man spoke like this man" (Jn. 7:46).
- d) The demons that possessed men in those days came out at Jesus command and they even confessed, "What have we to do with you, Jesus, thou Son of God" (Mt. 8:29).
- e) When Jesus died on the cross, the centurion standing at the foot of the cross said, "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mk. 15:39).

All of the friends of Jesus that knew Him best all claimed that He was the Son of God. The angels announced He was the Son of God when He was born. The Hebrew scriptures all point to Him and declare that He is truly God's very own Son. Three times God the Father spoke out so that men on earth could themselves hear Him say, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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