CHAPTER 25
Who is Jesus?
MATTHEW 16, 17 & JOHN 7-8; 11-12

THE STORY

Introduction
“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
Matthew 16:13
“But what about you? Who do you say I am?” Matthew 16:15
Who is Jesus?
Let’s consider some of the options.

THE STORY

I. Jesus is a good man.

Yet is that all he is or is he more than that?
Jesus’ favorite designation for himself was the title Son of Man.
To us “Son of Man” sounds humble, but to every Jew who knew the Scriptures it was a claim to be God.

THE STORY

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”
Daniel 7:13-14

THE STORY

Not only that but this “good man” Jesus kept referring to himself as God.
In John’s Gospel there are 7 I Am statements.

- I am the bread of life. John 6:35
- I am the light of the world. John 8:12
- I am the door. John 10:7
- I am the good shepherd. John 10:11
- I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25
- I am the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6
- I am the true vine. John 15:1

In addition, in chapter 8 he makes three other significant I Am statements.

- “Unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.” John 8:24
- “[W]hen you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am.” John 8:28
- “[I]f I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am.” John 8:58

I Am was the name of God given to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3:14. What sort of man says those things?

II. Jesus is a fool.

Yet when you look at Jesus’ life and teaching he doesn’t look or sound like a megalomaniac like Hitler or Stalin or someone who is insane.

People were drawn to Jesus by his love and by his teaching. It is one thing to claim to be God and another thing to back it up by the miracles he performed.

In John’s Gospel there are 7 I Am statements and 7 miracles.

- Changing water into wine. John 2:1-11
- Healing the royal official’s son. John 4:46-54
- Healing the paralytic. John 5:1-18
- Feeding the 5000. John 6:5-14
- Jesus walking on water. John 6:16-24
- Healing the blind man. John 9:1-7
- Raising Lazarus from the dead. John 11:1-45
III. Jesus is a fraud.

He was a liar and deceiver. Really? If he was a huckster, he wasn’t very good at it because he never made a profit or took a penny for his miraculous works. The people who followed him did so out of love and he made them better people.

“I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

IV. Jesus is Lord.

“One of the greatest testimonies to the truthfulness of Jesus is the explosion of the New Testament church.”

Philip Schaff
Jesus is exactly who he claims to be. Peter answered Jesus’ question by saying, “You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16

“Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah for this was not revealed to you by man but by my Father in heaven.” Matthew 16:17

Then Jesus would tell the disciples very clearly what would happen to him in Jerusalem. “From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Matthew 16:21

Conclusion

What is your response to Jesus?

“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 said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a 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.” C.S. Lewis

Who do you say I am?