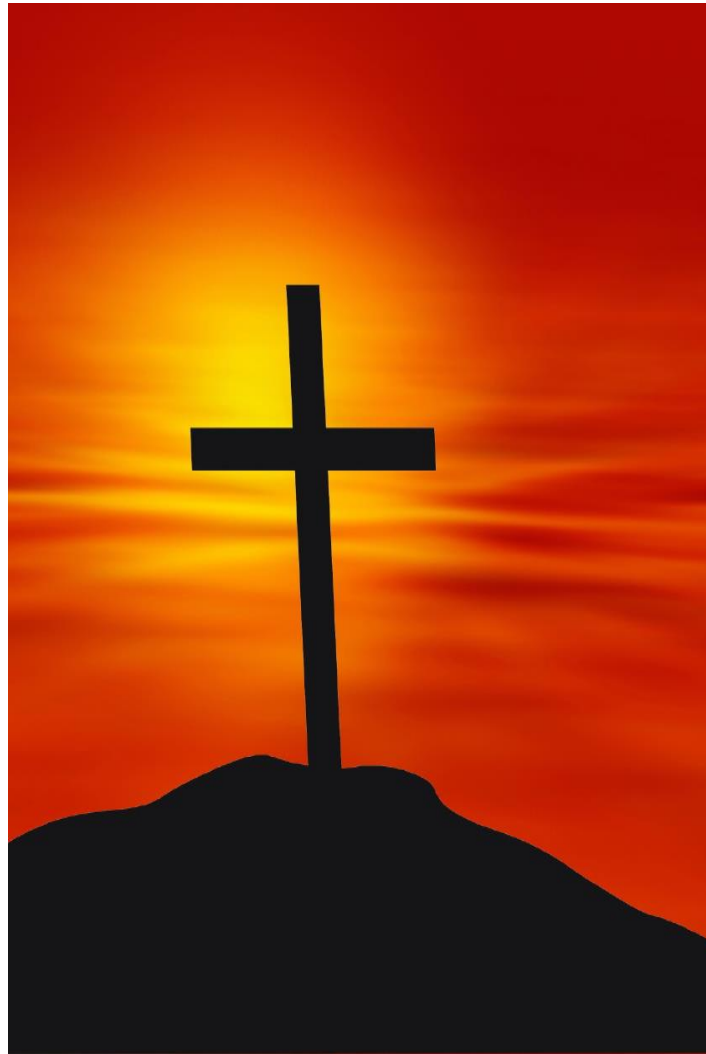


Jesus Christ ...



Son of God + Son of Man

***Jesus Christ –
Son of God
and
Son of Man***

**Bible Studies on the life of Jesus Christ,
looking at His divine and human nature –
and the implications for us today!**

Brian Caughley

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Introduction

Jesus said, “Whoever has seen Me, has seen the Father” (John 14:9-10)

“We would see Jesus!”

Jesus often talked about His Father. In John chapter 14, in particular, Jesus spoke of His Father, His Father’s House, coming to the Father, knowing the Father and seeing the Father. Philip said to Jesus, “Show us the Father and we will be satisfied.” The problem was that people couldn’t **see** the Father – they had read about Him in the Old Testament Scriptures, they had heard about Him through the prophets; they knew about Him but couldn’t **see** Him!

Even today, many Christians wrestle with the fact that they can’t see God the Father and have never audibly heard Him speak to them. Of course this is where **faith** comes in. But **one** of the reasons Jesus came into the world as a Man – as a human being – was to show us what God the Father is like and to speak on His behalf.

So Jesus said to Philip, “Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know Me? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own behalf, but the Father who lives in Me does His works.”

Earlier Jesus had said, “The Son can do nothing on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. ... I can do nothing on My own. As I hear [from the Father] I judge; and My judgement is just because I seek to do not My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me” (John 5:19, 30).

In John 8:28 He also said “I do nothing on My own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed Me.”

In other words, if we want to know what God is like – look at His Son. If we want to know how God would have us to live – look at His Son. If we want a perfect picture of what the Father is like – look at His Son; His life, His character, His teachings and so on.

Perhaps this is the reason why some Greeks came to Philip later and said, “We want to see Jesus!” (John 12:21). When we see Jesus we see the Father; we see the One who perfectly modeled what our Christian lives should be like – what we should believe, how we should live, think, speak and behave.

This book contains a series of Bible studies on the theme: **Jesus Christ – Son of God and Son of Man**. The purpose of these studies is to take a fresh look at the life of Jesus Christ here on earth, as Jesus lived as a Man amongst Mankind, and also as He also lived as the Son of God on earth.

He is our Example: “I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you”; “Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you should follow in His steps” (John 13:15; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 2:21).

May God grant us all the **desire** and the **ability** to live as He lived, lives that are pleasing to the Father at all times. If every Christian lived as Christ lived on earth, we would turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6). **So help us, Lord!**

How do we “see” God?

How do we see God? Do we see Him as a:

1. Stick figure?
2. Caricature or cartoon figure?
3. Painting?
4. Photo?
5. Person?

As Jesus began to heal a blind man, he first saw people as “trees, walking”. But as Jesus touched his eyes a second time, he saw everyone clearly – as they really are! (Mark 8:22-29). Then Jesus asked His disciples who people thought He was – some said John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets. But when Jesus asked them who **they** believed He was, Peter answered, “You are the Christ – the Messiah”! Some people only saw Jesus dimly; Peter saw Who Jesus really is!

Do we see God as “a tree, walking”? If we do, we need God to touch our eyes again so that we see Him as He is revealed to us through Jesus Christ – Son of God and Son of Man.

The Seeker

Early in the morning I will seek You
Early in the day You will be found
To searching, seeking hearts You will reveal
The mysteries of Yourself, without a sound.

Your Spirit moves and speaks and will reveal
What no human mind can fully comprehend;
We receive within our hearts that revelation
Which You, in Your great love and grace, will send.

There is no other way that we can know You
Though we would think and reason with our mind
Without Your light and glorious revelation
We are only spiritually blind.

But You have sent Your only Son to show us
Who You, the Father, Son and Spirit, are
Your Spirit speaks within our hearts and shows us
You're not a God who lives and dwells afar.

Come Holy Spirit show to me this day
More of Yourself and who You really are
Be gracious to this waiting, willing seeker
And show Yourself as You most truly are.

For I would seek You, know You and adore
Worship, serve You, give You all my love
Come Holy Spirit fall on me once more
You gentle, loving, revealing Heavenly Dove!

Brian Caughley
January 1986

It's Your Day, Lord

In the quietness of the morning
When the sun has not yet risen
Early in the day
Will I seek You, O my God.

Before the noise and clamour start
And it's busyness as usual
Before demands of this new day
Begin to squeeze out thoughts of You.

Yes, early, early in the day
I choose to seek Your face
And wait upon Your quiet word
To reassure and uplift.

To know You, see You, hear Your voice
Before I hear and see those of others
This is sheer delight
Yet how few will really know it.

My body, tired and weary
May rest when it is time
But my spirit is uplifted –
That makes it all worthwhile.

I know to put You first
Is to honour who You are
To give You rightful place
In my life and in my day.

So be pleased, dear Lord, to meet me
And to share what's on Your heart –
Rebuke, command or promise
Let it find an open heart.

And so this time will be
The best in all my day
And my day will know Your blessing
As I give it all to You.

Brian Caughley
24 February 1986

1.

Introduction: *Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man*

Paul's one great aim was expressed in his words: "that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death" (Phil. 3:10).

The main way we get to know the Lord is through His Word, and by the revelation of the Holy Spirit to us as we read and study His Word (Eph. 1:13-18).

John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God" and his disciples left him and followed Jesus instead (John 1:36-37). The purpose of seeing Him and knowing Him is so that we might follow His example, and walk in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21).

The Incarnation (John 1:1-18)

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. We beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (v. 14).

In the amazing event of the incarnation – where God came into the world as a Man – we see two great attributes of Jesus portrayed: **humility** and **love** (Phil. 2:5-8; John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8). Jesus humbled Himself, became a Man, a Servant, and died because He loves us! What an amazing example!

Are we prepared to humble ourselves and serve, not only Him, but others? Are we prepared to lay down our lives, not only for Him, but for others? While it may not involve physically dying for them, in our case, it will mean death to self and it will cost us all we have: our time, our efforts, our possessions, our talents, our abilities and our gifts.

If we truly love, we will be willing to do this.

Two natures (Matthew 1:18-25)

A child receives characteristics from both parents. Jesus received His divine nature and character from His Father, for He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He received His humanity from His mother. So we see Jesus Christ as both Son of God and Son of Man.

We, too, in our physical birth, receive our human nature, but in our spiritual re-birth we receive the nature and character of our Father (John 1:12-13; 3:3-6). Our physical nature and character has been corrupted by sin; our spirit, born of God, is incorruptible. We can choose whether we live as a son of man (living in the flesh, following our old, carnal, human nature) or as a son of God (living in the Spirit, according to our new, God-given nature).

Jesus lived a perfect life. He chose to live in the flesh exactly as He lived in the Spirit – without sin, and pleasing to the Father at all times. His life was a perfect example of how we ought to live: living in the world, but not being of the world; in the midst of sin and corruption, but not living in sin and corruption! The Son of Man and Son of God lived in perfect harmony in the world, demonstrating how the world ought to live.

Let us follow His example!

The Names of Jesus

In the first two chapters of both Matthew's Gospel and Luke's Gospel we are given a number of names or titles by which Jesus was called. He was born as a baby to a human mother, and His birth (at first) appeared to be little different from any other birth, but most of these names emphasise His deity:

Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:18)	Jesus = Saviour Christ = Messiah = the Anointed One
Emmanuel (Matt. 1:23)	Emmanuel = God with us
Jesus (Luke 1:31)	
Son of the Most High (Luke 1:32)	
Holy (Luke 1:35)	Holy = set apart for sacred purposes
Son of God (Luke 1:35)	
Saviour (Luke 2:11)	
Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)	

Yet there are also names which indicate His humanity:

King of the Jews (Matt. 2:2)	This also indicates His deity because, in the normal earthly sense of the word "king", He was not a Jewish king.
Nazarene (Matt. 2:23)	Nazarene = one who lives in Nazareth
The child (Matt. 2:13)	
Son – Mary called Him her "son" (Luke 2:48)	

Isaiah prophesied of the coming of the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6

His humanity: "To us a child is born; to us a son is given"

Isaiah's seven-fold title also emphasizes His deity:

His deity: "The government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called:

1. Wonderful
2. Counsellor
3. Mighty
4. God
5. Everlasting
6. Father
7. Prince of Peace"

Jesus Christ – Son of God **and** Son of Man!

Jesus' humility (Luke 2:4-7)

Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords, chose to be born:

- to an unmarried mother
- to a Jew (Jews were despised and under Roman domination)
- in a stable, with animals

He could have come as a king, into a palace. He chose to be born as a baby in a manger!

What a lesson in humility! "He made Himself of no reputation" (Phil. 2:7).

The inn was too full to receive Jesus, so He came to the manger where room was made. Are our hearts and lives too full for the Saviour, or will we make room for Him and welcome Him in?

Perfect balance and harmony (Luke 2:52)

“Jesus increased (continued to grow) in wisdom (mentally), and in stature (physically), and in favour with God (spiritually) and man (socially).”

Jesus’ life was perfectly balanced in all areas; He lived in total harmony within Himself and in His relations with both God and man.

This balance and harmony is most important if we are to follow His example.

Moreover, there was growth in all these areas. His life was not static – He grew and developed in all areas. So should we! Let us never think that there is no further room for growth or improvement in any area of our lives, or we will stagnate and drift backwards – decrease instead of increase!

Jesus our Example (Matthew 3:13-15)

John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance, for the washing away of sins (Matt. 3:1-12). Why, then, did Jesus want to be baptized? Not because He had any sin, but in order to fully identify with sinful Mankind, and in order to be our example in all things, He showed us that baptism is necessary in order to “fulfill all righteousness”.

- Jesus was born of the Spirit; so must we.
- Jesus was baptized in water; so must we.
- Jesus was baptized in, and filled with, the Holy Spirit; so must we.
- Jesus was dead to self; so must we.
- Jesus was raised from the dead; so will we!

Anointed with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17; Acts 10:38)

While Jesus was God incarnate, He did not use His inherent divine power on earth but “laid it aside” (Phil. 2:6-7) so that He could fully identify with Mankind. He performed no public ministry and did no miracles until He was baptized in the Spirit.

Thus His ministry, His anointing, His power and authority were not derived from His deity but were imparted to Him by the Father when He was baptized in the Spirit. They were His, as the Son of Man, as a gift from the Father, not inherited because He was the Son of God.

So the ministry He had, the anointing, power and authority He had, we too can have through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-22) and the impartation of the gifts of the Spirit by the Father to His children (Matt. 7:11). Once again we see Jesus as our Example. If we are a child of God in whom He is well pleased, full of the Holy Spirit, we can have a miraculous ministry too (Mark 16:15-20).

In other words, Jesus, the Son of God, lived on earth as the Son of Man, filled with the Spirit of God – the Holy Spirit – and this is how we are to live our lives as well.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is Jesus our Example?
2. Didn’t Jesus have advantages we don’t have?
3. How can Jesus be both the Son of God **and** the Son of Man?
4. What do each of the names *Jesus, Christ, Emmanuel, Lord*, tell us about Jesus?
5. Why is it so important for us to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)?
6. How should children of God live?

2.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Tempted, yet without sin

See Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13 and Hebrews 4:15.

Jesus was tempted, just as we are, and yet He did not give in to temptation. His temptations were real; they were just as strong, if not stronger, than our temptations, but He resisted them and chose not to sin.

Jesus knew the Word of God, and chose the appropriate part of it to resist the devil each time. The Word of God is an effective weapon against the wiles of the devil, but we must **know it and use it!**

Moreover, the devil even misused Scripture as part of his tempting. We can rationalize our way into sin; we can even twist Scripture to excuse sin. How subtle are the ways of the enemy! Hence we need to know how to “rightly divide (discern, interpret and use) the Word of Truth”.

Jesus was tempted in three major ways in Matthew chapter 4:

1. Self-centeredness (v. 2-3) The lust of the flesh: for food.
2. Pride (v. 5-6) The pride of life: for glory.
3. Compromise (v. 8-9) The lust of the eyes (mind): for power.
(See 1 John 2:15-17)

But Jesus died to self; He walked the path of humility, seeking only to bring glory to His Father; and He never compromised.

Jesus could have turned stones into bread to feed Himself, because He was hungry, but He did not have the Word of God to do so. “Man shall not live by bread alone [bread is good and necessary, but not the only thing of importance], but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God”. We have the power and authority to heal the sick, cast out demons, etc., but do we have the rhema of God, quickened to us by the Holy Spirit, to do so in a particular case? Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing: He did not act as an independent, free agent; He worked with the Father.

Son of God ... Son of Man (John 1:49-51)

Early in Jesus’ ministry He met Nathaniel who called Him **Teacher, Son of God and King of Israel**. In turn we see Jesus referring to Himself as **Son of Man**.

Two of these four titles emphasise His deity: Son of God and King of Israel. Two of them emphasise His humanity: Teacher and Son of Man.

Which was He – man or God? Both!

Sensitivity (John 2:1-11).

Jesus showed sensitivity and understanding in a situation that could have been very embarrassing for the host of the wedding. Jesus knows our needs: He is sensitive to our

feelings and problems. Sometimes, of course, there are lessons we need to learn, but He will not embarrass us if we walk humbly in His ways. He will supply our needs!

Righteous anger (Mark 11:15-18)

Jesus was angry – but He did not sin. How is this possible?

- (a) He did not “lose His temper” – at all times He acted with perfect self-control.
- (b) He did not hate people – He was angry at what people were doing, but He did not hate the people; in fact He loved them so much that He died for their sins!
- (c) He was not trying to justify Himself or get revenge for Himself – His Father’s glory, and the purpose of the Temple, were being violated; these were what angered Him. The motives for His anger were pure.
- (d) His anger was Biblical – the House of Prayer was being abused, and its spiritual purposes were being corrupted for worldly, material gain.
- (e) He spoke and acted under divine revelation and with divine authority. He moved and acted in the Spirit at all times; He was not controlled by the flesh. When we can speak and act as Jesus did, then we can be righteously angry – and yet not sin! “Be angry, but sin not”, Paul said (Eph. 4:26).

Jesus knew what was in man (John 2:23-25)

In order to follow Jesus’ example, and to know how to act and react in any given situation, it is most important that we know human nature intimately.

Jesus “knew what was in man” – the potential for good as well as evil. He sought to expose and deal with what was evil, and at the same time draw out what was good.

He knows the human potential to be selfish, superficial, hypocritical, materialistic, hedonistic or proud; to lack commitment, to give up easily, to act from wrong motives; give in to passivity, doubts and unbelief.

He also knows the human potential (inspired by the Holy Spirit) to love, to worship God; for self-sacrifice, compassion and so on.

An understanding of human nature is very important to us as Christians, in our dealing with other people, as well as understanding and dealing with ourselves!

Jesus knows man, because Jesus is the Son of Man. (1 Sam. 16:6-7; Heb. 4:14-16).

Without prejudice (John 4:4-42)

On a number of occasions the Bible reminds us that God is “no respecter of persons” – that is, He is not prejudiced for or against various classes of people: Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, old or young, male or female (Gal. 3:26-29).

Thus Jesus, a young, holy, Jewish man was, for example, able to speak to an unholy Samaritan woman – and change her life!

Jesus showed love, patience, tact and consideration when dealing with her. He avoided fruitless arguments (v. 19-20) and simply shared the water of life with her.

The only thing that needed changing was her sin: she needed to be cleansed from sin and have the water which springs up into eternal life. And this He gave her!

Jesus' wrath was against religious hypocrisy and pride, not against needy people who would respond to His love and invitation to follow Him.

Jesus' holy life and unquestionable moral behavior ("Who of you convinces Me of sin?" John 8:46) were such that, while the disciples were initially surprised that He was talking to the woman, they did not ask what He was doing or why. They trusted Him! His motives were always so pure that the disciples did not doubt them.

Jesus was tired, thirsty and hungry, and yet He had plenty of time to help someone in need. So concerned was He to meet the woman's spiritual needs that He said "I have food to eat, of which you do not know. ... My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me". Spiritual food, and obedience to the will of His Father, were more important than physical food.

The same was also true when He was tempted in the wilderness (Matt. 4:2-4).

QUESTIONS

1. Why would it have been wrong for Jesus to turn stones into bread when He was hungry?
2. Why was it important for Jesus to know what His Father was doing? (John 5:19, 20, 30; 8:28)
3. What is "righteous anger"? How is it possible to "Be angry but not sin"?
4. "Jesus knew what was in Man". What does this mean, and how does it help us when we are dealing with people?
5. People have a great potential for both good and evil. What leads and inspires people in each of these two opposite directions?
6. What does "prejudice" literally mean? Why is it important not to be prejudiced? How can we overcome it?

3.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

With authority (Mark 1:21-28)

When Jesus went into the synagogue and taught the people, it was “with authority”. The Bible does not say what it was that caused the people to recognize that authority, but it possibly was:

1. **No vagueness:** Jesus taught clearly and concisely. There was no “maybe” or “possibly this or possibly that”. Jesus knew the Truth without a shadow of doubt, and taught that Truth with conviction, and convincingly.
2. **Insight:** Jesus had divine insight into things the Jews had never seen or understood before. He did not trot out the old theories and ideas and traditions of men; He brought divine revelation to the Word of God. It all began to make sense. It witnessed with the people as being true.
3. **It was the pure Word of God:** Jesus taught the holy Scriptures, uncluttered with other additions – the words and thoughts of men, the extra laws, ideas and traditions of men that had grown up over the centuries.
4. **He applied it:** Jesus’ teaching was not theoretical, philosophical theology; it was practical, down-to-earth, applied to daily living (like His Sermon on the Mount or His parables). People could not escape its implications or hide behind theological arguments. It called for a change in life!
5. **It was confirmed with signs following:** Even the demons recognized the Truth of what Jesus was saying, and Who He is. Jesus then demonstrated both His power and authority over them by casting them out.
6. **His life backed up His words** (Luke 4:20-22). There was something that people could see in His life that they recognized as being different from others: His holiness, His purity, His openness, His honesty; His whole being and nature reflected the Truth He taught.

The important place of prayer (Mark 1:32-39)

In the midst of a very successful, busy ministry of teaching, healing and deliverances, Jesus rose very early in the morning to go out to a lonely place to pray. When miracles happen and crowds are drawn, it must be very easy to get caught up in the excitement and almost forget the Lord, but Jesus knew the supreme importance of seeking the Father. Tired or not, He got up early to pray.

God is the Source of all our strength, power and authority, and unless we draw aside constantly to seek Him and wait on Him, we will lose that strength and authority.

The Lord is far greater and far more important than the miracles He does!

Discerning the root of the problem (Matthew 9:1-8)

The need was obvious: a paralytic who needed healing. The cause of the problem was not so obvious – sin. Jesus could have simply healed the man, and that would have been

miraculous in itself. But He discerned the root of the problem – sin – and dealt with that first. Jesus forgave the man his sins.

But that exposed a new problem: this time in the hearts of the scribes (v. 3-4). Jesus discerned a critical, unbelieving attitude. What proof was there that Jesus really **could** forgive sins, and that He wasn't blaspheming? He followed up the forgiveness with a miracle of healing – and only God can do that! The root (sin) was dealt with; now the fruit (sickness) was dealt with, and the man went away both forgiven and healed.

How we need discernment! As a result, the fear of God came upon the people, they glorified God, and recognized the authority God had given men to heal the sick.

Friend of tax collectors and sinners (Luke 5:27-32)

It would have been easy for Jesus to mix with the religious people – the scribes and the Pharisees – and to identify with the “respectable middle-class” people: those who thought they were “well” and therefore had no need for a physician; those who were righteous, at least in their own eyes. But He didn't!

Religious hypocrisy is a barrier to true repentance and salvation. Those who consider themselves “well”, either physically or spiritually, don't go to a doctor and so do not learn their true state; they simply look down on those who are sick.

The self-righteous never consider that they need to be saved, and therefore have no need for the Saviour.

Jesus passed these ones by. He sought out those who were despised and hated; those who knew their need; the poor, the sick, the lonely; the outcasts, the “lepers” of society – those who were needy and knew their need. And, as they responded, their lives were transformed. Like Matthew's!

Listening to the Father (John 5:19-30)

Jesus lived in close union with His Father. One of the reasons He spent so much time in prayer was that He always wanted to know what His Father was doing and saying. “The Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing; for whatever He does, the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show, so that you may marvel” (v. 19-20). “I can do nothing on My own authority. As I hear, I judge. My judgement is just because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me” (v. 30).

A key to Jesus' powerful and fruitful ministry was that He sought the Father, to hear His voice, to see what He was doing, so that He lived in perfect harmony with His Father. What a Son! We, too, need to hear what God is saying and do what God is doing.

Absolute honesty, fearlessness and grace (John 5:30-47)

In this passage we see three characteristics of the way in which Jesus spoke to people:

1. Absolute honesty: Jesus didn't pretend; He didn't say nice words just to please people – He spoke the truth of the matter exactly how it was. The people were left in no doubt whatsoever about their state before God.

2. Fearlessness: Jesus was not afraid of what the people thought, or might say or do as a result of His words. He spoke boldly, directly, honestly and fearlessly – yet in love and without deliberately trying to be offensive.

3. Grace: In spite of what He said, Jesus spoke with grace. One could not be offended by how He spoke. One might be offended by what He said – the truthfulness, honesty, frankness and fearlessness by which He spoke, if one were convicted of that truth and recognized one’s own guilt. But the grace with which Jesus spoke was such that, if one had a heart to respond in the right way, His words were not offensive. He, and His words, were “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, 17).

QUESTIONS

1. Why did some religious people hate Jesus?
2. What proved that Jesus was not blaspheming when He claimed to be the Son of God?
3. Why is humility so important if we are really going to know the Truth and follow Jesus?
4. How can we listen to our Heavenly Father?
5. Why did Jesus, God’s Son, need to pray?
6. Why are grace and truth both essential when we deal with people?

4.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Full of compassion (Matthew 12:1-14)

The Sabbath was made as a day of rest, but the Pharisees had added numerous rules and regulations to God's commandment (Exod. 20:8-11). To eat some grain, or to speak four words of healing with authority and power, were hardly a breach of God's law, even if it did breach the Pharisees petty laws. Jesus had compassion on the sick and hungry, while the legalistic, cold-hearted Pharisees, with murderous intentions (v. 10, 14) could not see beyond their own pettiness.

Jesus pointed out their inconsistencies (v. 3-5, 11-12) and showed how mercy was far more to be desired than sacrifice, but the Pharisees' lack of compassion and totally wrong motives clashed head-on with Jesus' love, compassion, mercy and grace.

Jesus was not afraid. He spoke His words and deliberately did what was right, knowing it would provoke them to anger. One man was healed – and a group of men's heart attitudes were exposed!

Great wisdom (Matthew 12:14-16)

Jesus was not afraid of the Pharisees, but He knew that the time of His arrest and crucifixion was not yet. He had much more to do. There were multitudes to heal, set free, save, teach and minister to. No doubt Jesus' ministry to thousands of people laid a strong foundation on which the early Church was to be built.

So Jesus, knowing the Pharisees' desire to destroy Him, went elsewhere to do His work, and told the people not to make Him known. Jesus wanted to go and minister where He chose, rather than be dictated to by popular appeal or pressures. Thus, at times, He "withdrew" and went elsewhere to carry the Gospel wherever He was led by the Holy Spirit.

It is not wrong to escape (as both Jesus and Paul did) from the hands of evil men, *if that is what God wants us to do*. The time may well come (again, as it did with both Jesus and Paul) when God allows our arrest or even martyrdom.

Great wisdom, fearlessness and complete dependence on God and His will, are needed.

Seeking the Father's will (Luke 6:12-16)

Jesus spent a whole night in prayer before He chose His 12 disciples. This was an important decision, for He was about to ordain and set aside a special group of 12 apostles who would be the foundation of the Church He was to build.

So Jesus sought His Father's will – all night, out in the hills, alone.

The choice was not an "obvious" one, for the 12 disciples were a really mixed bag:

Simon Peter – a fisherman, known for being impetuous; the one who would deny Jesus, but became the preacher/evangelist on the day of Pentecost!

Andrew – Peter's brother; also a fisherman.

James and John – also fishermen; known as the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17).

Philip.

Bartholomew.

Matthew – a tax collector; looked down on by the Romans because he was a Jew but despised by the Jews because he collected taxes for the Romans!

Thomas – sometimes called “doubting Thomas”.

James (son of Alphaeus).

Simon – a zealot and Cananean (Mark 3:18).

Thaddaeus (also called Judas), a son of James.

Judas Iscariot – who became a traitor, betrayed Jesus and later hung himself.

These men, almost certainly, would not have been our choice. But Jesus did not choose them because of what they had been, or even were, but the potential He saw within each one (except Judas Iscariot) to be part of the future of the Church (1 Cor. 1:26-31).

How brave Jesus was to choose Judas Iscariot and to treat him exactly the same as the others. But Jesus had sought His Father’s will, and knew what He was doing!

Never in a hurry (Matthew 8:5-13)

Nowhere in the Gospels do we ever find Jesus in a hurry. Everything was under divine control; there was never any need for panic or undue haste. Jesus heard the news of the sick servant and said, “I will come” (v. 7).

We see this even more vividly in the case of Lazarus (John 11:1-7). If God is in control there is no need for panic. There is a time in God to move, and a time to wait. We should neither be hasty, nor delay when God wants us to move. There is a real peace and rest that comes with being in the centre of God’s will.

Compassion (Luke 7:11-17)

Jesus saw the bereaved widow and had compassion on her. She had already lost her husband; now she had lost her only son. The plight of an older widow, without children, in those days would not have been easy.

Jesus was filled with love, mercy and compassion. He restored her son to life again and gave him back to his mother.

Jesus was never hard-hearted towards those in need. Even if He did not know them (there is no evidence that He knew this widow from Nain), He was still compassionate.

Well-pleasing to God (Matthew 3:17)

Jesus lived a life that was always totally pleasing to His Father. Everything He thought, said and did was pleasing to God. Nothing was contrary to His Father’s will. He sought God in prayer; He waited on Him, and did those things He saw His Father doing. There was perfect harmony and unity between the Father and the Son. Hence the Father’s testimony: “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased”.

Strategic timing (Luke 4:16-30)

Nothing ever happened by chance in Jesus’ life. There is always a sense of divine timing and destiny in all that He did.

Jesus was given the book of Isaiah, but He chose the place from which He read. It was not random; it was not “where they were up to” in reading through the book. “He opened the book and found the place where it was written ...” Then He said “**Today** this (prophetic)

Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Then He began the revelation of Who He was. But the people would not receive His word; they tried to kill Him. But His time was not yet.

Proof! (Matthew 11:2-6; John 14:1-14)

Jesus’ reason for performing miracles was to help people in need. It was also a natural result of His deity and His love for people.

What proof did Jesus give that He was the Messiah? He healed the sick, delivered those who were bound, raised the dead. The blind saw, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, the dead were raised to life again, Good News was brought to the poor! (see Luke 4:18-19). And all this, not on a small scale; not just a few healed, but “multitudes” that were sick were healed, and He cast demons out of many.

Moreover, if **we** believe, we will do these and greater works (John 14:12-14). Hallelujah!

QUESTIONS

1. What is “compassion”? Does the Church today show much compassion (a) to its own members; and (b) to those outside the Church?
2. What are some examples from the life of Jesus which show His divine wisdom?
3. Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot to be one of His disciples?
4. Jesus never seemed to be in a hurry. Why? Why is correct timing so important?
5. What proof did Jesus give that He is the Son of God?
6. What is the significance of Jesus several times saying “I AM”?

5.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Gentle Jesus? (Matthew 11:20-24)

Jesus was loving; He was also uncompromising! He encouraged the weak; He spoke strongly and sternly to the rebellious and proud.

Jesus rebuked Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum for their refusal to repent (v. 20) and for pride (v. 23). Their judgement would be all the greater because they refused to believe and humble themselves in spite of the mighty works Jesus had done there. We may well ask for signs and wonders to confirm God's Word but our judgement will be all the greater if we still refuse to repent and obey!

Crossing all barriers (Luke 7:36-50)

Jesus had the unique ability to cross all barriers. He mixed easily with all sorts of people: rich and poor, old and young, men and women, the high and the lowly, religious and irreligious, saints and sinners.

He did not reject anyone who came to Him. He accepted the invitation of the proud, religious, rich, "pure" Pharisee but He did not reject the love and faith of the humble, poor, "unclean" prostitute. He forgave the sins of the repentant; accepted the love of those who gave it; spent time with those who had questions ("If ...", v. 39).

Jesus shunned nothing but religious hypocrisy. He had time for all those in need. He allowed no barriers to separate Himself from people. He used powerful illustrations to speak to people (v. 40-47). He had the power both to forgive and to save, and to impart divine peace to the penitent heart (v. 48-50). What a Saviour!

Facing accusations (Mark 3:20-30)

When Jesus' friends saw all His activity, and that He did not even have time to eat, they said He was beside Himself. There is no record of Jesus answering this accusation. He was busy – yes, doing His Father's will. There was little time for rest or eating. But the accusation was left unanswered.

Then He was accused by some scribes of being possessed by Satan, and of being able to deliver people by Satan's power. This time Jesus did answer. He pointed out how foolish such an accusation was: how can Satan cast out Satan without defeating his own kingdom? No kingdom or house or person could survive if there was such internal division! Obviously anyone who cast out demons was totally opposed to the demonic realm.

To some questions and accusations Jesus remained silent; others He answered with a few well-chosen words. Jesus was always in control of the situation; He was never afraid, confused or intimidated.

The place of signs (Matthew 12:38-42)

"An evil and (spiritually) adulterous generation seeks for a sign". This does not necessarily imply the converse: that it is evil or adulterous to ask for a sign! It may indicate unbelief or a faith which is weak. But Jesus had already given many signs: healing the sick, raising the

dead, delivering the demon-possessed, working other miracles, etc. In fact, Jesus Himself was a “miraculous sign” – God incarnate, born of a virgin, the Son of God on earth!

Moreover, Jesus did give these people one last sign – the greatest of all signs – He died and rose again three days later, never to die again! If they would not believe when that sign was given, then there was no hope.

The scribes’ and Pharisees’ problem was that they would not believe, even when signs were given. Nineveh repented when they heard Jonah’s message; these scribes and Pharisees would not repent as a result of Jesus’ preaching. The queen of Sheba travelled thousands of kilometres to seek Solomon, but these scribes and Pharisees would not make the effort to really seek Jesus. What then was the use of a further sign? But one more sign would be given – then they must choose.

Family relationships (Mark 3:31-35)

Jesus in no way rejected His family, but He did show the greater importance of doing God’s will. There is little to indicate that, prior to the crucifixion, Mary or Jesus’ brothers or sisters had much to do with His ministry or teaching. Others followed Him closely; His family appeared not to.

Our true family is the family of God – our eternal family! Hopefully this includes (or will include) our parents, brothers and sisters, and our children but our closest kinship is with those who love, obey and follow the Lord.

The purpose of parables (Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10)

These verses are not easy to understand! Didn’t Jesus want some people to understand, believe and be saved?

One thing these verses emphasize is the need for whole-heartedness and earnest seeking after God. We need to make sure that we really do see, hear and understand. Some people have allowed their hearts to grow dull, and they are tired of hearing and seeing, instead of earnestly seeking after Him.

Jesus does not force people to follow Him. He commands everyone to repent and follow Him, but if they choose to disobey then the judgement and consequences will be on their heads. We can earnestly seek Him, or we can ignore Him; the choice is ours. If we seek Him our eyes will be opened, our ears will be unstopped, our understanding will be enlightened – we will find Him, be forgiven and receive more. If we get tired and give up, we will lose even what we have had.

Let us seek Him with **all** our hearts!

Absolute faith and trust in the Father (Matthew 8:23-27)

Jesus had absolute trust in His Father so that He was able to fall asleep in the boat and not worry about a severe storm. His Father had everything in control and would protect and keep Him.

And even when the panicking disciples woke Him, He demonstrated His faith by commanding the winds and waves and storm to be still – and they were!

Oh what joy and peace to have the faith and trust in our Heavenly Father, that Jesus had!

Compassion and wisdom (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20)

Jesus showed real compassion towards this poor, demon-possessed man. Having been battered and bruised by demons, by society and by himself, Jesus loosed him and set him free.

Jesus also showed great wisdom as He allowed the demons to perform their last destructive feat: they destroyed a herd of pigs. Pigs were unclean animals to the Jews and should not have been kept anyway. But possibly this also meant the end of these violent demons as they destroyed the pigs and themselves along with them.

Jesus was put out of the town, but He left a miraculously healed man, who everyone would know about, to bear witness to His power and grace!

QUESTIONS

1. What are some examples of Jesus being “gentle” and what are some examples of when He was “tough” with people?
2. Jesus faced all sorts of accusations, as we all do. In what ways did Jesus deal with people who accused Him? How did Jesus choose which way to deal with an accusation?
3. To what extent should we ask for, or depend on, “signs” to guide us or confirm what God is saying to us?
4. Why did Jesus sometimes seem to be rather off-handed about His family?
5. What was the point of Jesus teaching parables if some people did not understand them and Jesus didn’t always explain them?
6. Jesus exercised **compassion** and **wisdom** in His ministry. How can we receive and exercise greater compassion and wisdom in **our** Christian lives and ministries?

6.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Moved with compassion (Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 1:40-42; 6:34; Luke 7:12-15)

The Gadarene demoniac was not, of course, the only person Jesus was moved with compassion towards. Jesus was motivated by love and compassion towards anyone in need who was willing to receive Him and what He had to say. He ministered the love and power of God to the sick, demon-possessed, hungry (5000 and 4000), the grieving widow whose son had just died, His mother Mary at the cross. He wept at the tomb of Lazarus, He had time for a Samaritan woman at the well, He healed lepers, raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, ... He feels our infirmities (Matt. 8:14-17). To all "sheep without a shepherd" He was willing to be their Good Shepherd – even to the extent of laying down His life for His sheep! What a Shepherd! What a Saviour!

To Jesus, no-one was too lowly or too high to touch with the love and message of God. No-one was an outcast in Jesus' eyes; everyone could come to Him and follow Him. Some turned away His invitation to "Come, follow Me" – but the invitation was still given to all.

Always ready to forgive (John 8:3-11)

Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, is always ready to forgive. Like the father of the prodigal son, He waits with open arms to receive and forgive those who repent and turn back to Him. The Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7-42), the woman caught in adultery (John 8:10-11), Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), Peter after His denial of Jesus (John 21:15-19), the thief on the cross next to Him (Luke 23:39-43) – all found Jesus more than willing to forgive them and accept them. It was not a coincidence that Jesus died on a cross with His arms stretched out to the world – for "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that *whoever* believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, moved in the Spirit

Because Jesus is the Son of God, He was uniquely and miraculously born of the Spirit of God physically (Luke 1:30-35). We are to be born of the Spirit in the spiritual sense (John 3:1-16). This is sometimes called being "born again" – first our physical birth, and then our spiritual re-birth by God's Spirit. Because sin has already come into the world, our physical birth led to us becoming part of the fallen, sinful world of Mankind – not what God wanted! Our "old man" (our sinful inherited nature) needed to die and we needed to be born again – born from above – by the Spirit of God and so become children of God, to live lives as followers of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was also filled with the Spirit (Luke 3:21-22; 4:1). Being born of the Spirit is the start for us! In order to live the way God intends us to live, we need to be continually filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) so that our old, fallen, carnal nature which dies, is replaced by the Spirit of God who gives us the power, anointing, authority and wisdom of God to live as He wants us to live, and to minister and serve in His Spirit, bringing glory to Him and blessing to the world around us.

After we are filled with God's Spirit, we also need to be led by His Spirit, as Jesus was (Luke 4:1-2, 14-15). The purpose for being filled with the Spirit is so that we can follow the Lord in ways which are "miraculous", not merely "human". If we are to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, see the lives of people transformed by their repentance, forgiveness, salvation and

new birth; if we are to speak as the mouthpiece of God and do the works Jesus did – then we must be filled with the Spirit and led by God’s Spirit. Jesus only did what He saw His Father doing (John 5:19-20, 30; 8:28-30). So Jesus **moved** in the Spirit because He was **filled** with the Spirit, **led** by the Spirit and was **obedient** to the Spirit. ***No matter how far short of this ideal we might currently fall, this should always be our aim!***

The gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit

Jesus exercised the gifts of the Spirit and perfectly displayed the fruit of the Spirit – and so should we!

The nine gifts of the Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. There are many examples of the use of these gifts in His life and ministry. A few references are given below:

<u>GIFT</u>	<u>EXAMPLES IN JESUS’ LIFE</u>
Wisdom	Matthew 21:23-27; John 8:3-11
Knowledge	John 4:16-19, 28-29
Faith	Mark 4:35-41
Healing	Matthew 4:23-24; John 11:38-44
Miracles	Matthew 17:1-8
Prophecy	Matthew 24:1-31
Discernment of spirits	Mark 5:1-13

Tongues and interpretation: There is no specific mention of Jesus speaking in tongues, but Jesus knew the heart and mind and will of His Father perfectly. He worshipped and prayed in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23-24). Tongues and interpretation were supernaturally given at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-18), after Jesus ascended to His Father, so the disciples could communicate with people of other tongues supernaturally, as a sign, and intercede, pray, praise and worship as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance – with the tongues of men and of angels (1 Cor. 13:1)

The nine fruit of the Spirit are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Again, there are many examples of these fruit in Jesus’ life and ministry. A few references are given below:

<u>FRUIT</u>	<u>EXAMPLES IN JESUS’ LIFE</u>
Love	Matthew 14:13-14
Joy	Hebrews 12:2
Peace	Matthew 26:47-68
Patience	John 14:8-10
Kindness	Mark 7:25-30; Luke 7:12-15; John 8:10-11
Generosity	Matthew 8:20; 14:15-18
Faithfulness	John 21:15-17
Gentleness	Matthew 19:13-15
Self-control	Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus’ dealing with people

Because of Jesus’ love and compassion for people, it is easy to feel that He was “easy” on people and tolerant of almost everything, but this is **not** the case! Jesus called people to “Follow Him” – to become His disciples, follow His example and obey what He taught. This included repentance – a life change – confession of sin and wrong-doing, and a deep, genuine desire to “Be holy, as your Heavenly Father is holy” (Matt. 5:48).

We have already looked at a number of ways Jesus dealt with people, but the following makes an excellent study of the ways He dealt with different people according to their response to what He taught.

Compare and contrast Jesus' dealings with the following people:

First group: the woman at the well in Samaria; the woman caught in adultery; lepers (outcasts from society); Zacchaeus the tax collector; the Syro-Phoenician woman; the Roman Centurion; the demonised man in Gadara; Nicodemus; harlots and sinners.

Second group: Scribes; Pharisees; the proud and arrogant; religious hypocrites; Judas Iscariot who betrayed Him; Pilate, Herod and Caiaphas; the rich young ruler; the man who first wanted to say goodbye to his family, and one who had bought an ox and wanted to try it, and one who first wanted to bury his father; those who reject the Gospel.

It will take quite a bit of time to study all the different ways Jesus dealt with these people, but it is a worthwhile study!

Finally: **Jesus left us an example, and we should follow in His steps!** (see 1 Peter 2:21)

QUESTIONS

1. Am I "moved with compassion" as Jesus was? Am I always "ready to forgive"?
2. "Born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, moved in the Spirit" – what did these terms mean in the life of Jesus, and how do they apply to us?
3. What gifts of the Spirit has God given you? What gifts do you desire so that you can serve Him better?
4. Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you feel is most lacking in your life? What can you do about it?
5. How did Jesus show His faithfulness to the disciples who deserted Him at His trial and crucifixion, and to Peter who betrayed Him?
6. What are some of the major differences in the ways Jesus dealt with the people in the **First group** and the **Second group** in the study above?

7.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Jesus prayed ...

... and if Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray, how much more do we!

The prayer life of Jesus shows us both His intimate relationship with His Father, and His total dependence, as a Man on earth, on His Father. He said, “The Son can do nothing of Himself ... as I see the Father doing, so I do. I only do those things I see the Father doing” (John 5:19-20, 30; 8:28).

In order to “see what the Father was doing”, Jesus sometimes got up “a great while before dawn” and went out to a deserted place, or “up a mountain to pray” (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28).

All of us at times have been very disappointed that our prayers have not been answered in the way we wanted. Often we pray from our human desires and our human way of thinking, but are unable to see what God sees, and to know what God is doing – His bigger plan! This is where faith comes in. Even if our prayers are not answered the way we wanted, or the way we asked, we can still ask God “Why?” and perhaps He will show us. Even if He doesn’t, we trust His wisdom, power and love anyway, and know that “His ways are not [always] our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts” (Is. 55:8-9).

There is actually very little recorded of what Jesus prayed, or how He prayed. By far the longest recorded prayer of Jesus is in John 17.

We do know that Jesus taught His disciples to pray what we call the Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4).

We also know that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness after His baptism, and much of that would have been spent in prayer, meditation and being with His Father – as well as fasting and being tempted (tested) by the devil! While three temptations are recorded in the Bible, no doubt a lot of Jesus’ thinking and, later, teaching came from those crucial 40 days with His Father, in solitude, prayer, meditation on the Word of God (Old Testament Scriptures) and on the will of His Father.

Of course, Jesus was no hypocrite – He practised what He preached! – so we get a glimpse into the prayer life of Jesus and how He prayed by looking at what He taught His disciples about prayer.

Right near the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, Jesus was baptised in water by John the Baptist, and as He was praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove (Luke 3:21). Apart from prayer, and knowing and doing the Father’s will, another key to Jesus’ ministry was that He was baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit, and walked in the Spirit as an anointed Man.

Then, before choosing His 12 disciples, He went to a lonely place to commune with His Father and pray (Luke 6:12). Who else would have chosen Judas Iscariot to be his disciple?! But Jesus did – even knowing what was in his heart!

Jesus taught His followers to “Pray for those who persecute you”! (Matt. 5:44) and to “Bless those who curse you”! (Luke 6:28). Not easy things to do, but showing us how important it is to have a right heart attitude when we live as His disciples and want to pray to our Heavenly Father. Similarly, we are told to forgive when we pray (Mark 11:25) – forgive those who have wronged us, so that God will also forgive us for all the wrong we have done. In a certain way we also need to “forgive” God when we pray [not that God has ever done anything wrong] but for perceived hurts, disappointments, unanswered prayers, etc., that God may have allowed and which we hold against God. We need to come to God with clean hands and a pure heart, so that we can both be forgiven and pray effectual, fervent prayers which prevail (James 5:16).

Faith, of course, is extremely important when we pray – faith “to remove mountains” (Matt. 17:21; 21:22). Faith is based on the certain knowledge that God knows all things, has all power and wisdom, and will do what is good, right and best in every circumstance. Such faith comes as a gift from God and as part of our life-long experience of walking with God and trusting Him in all circumstances – no matter what! Even in the midst of seeming disaster, God is in control and is working His purposes out. We need to trust Him as surely as a young child trusts a loving, faithful parent.

Part of faith is persevering in prayer. Weak faith gives up easily, and gets discouraged. Jesus taught us to persist in prayer (Luke 11:5-13; 18:1). Faith also holds on – some prayers are answered many years later. Many a parent has prayed for their children for years, before they see the answer. Many a married person has prayed for their spouse for decades before the answer comes. As long as the Lord is leading you to continue to pray, do so!

Jesus said, “My House shall be called a House of Prayer [God-centred] but you have made it a den of thieves” [thieves take what is not rightfully theirs] (Matt. 21:13). Tragically, we have not listened to these words of Jesus, and we have often made it a “House of fine preaching, or wonderful music”, which is often man-centred. We have stolen the glory which belongs to God and God alone. The House of God should honour the Lord, not Man!

This is also why Jesus stands against hypocritical praying – pretending to make long, good sounding prayers which show off our spirituality, instead of humbly seeking God and acknowledging our total dependence on Him. See Matt. 6:5-8, 16-18; 23:14; Luke 18:9-14.

Prayer is recognising our inability and God’s ability. Prayer is humbling – we acknowledge we are totally dependent on God. He is the Lord, we are His servants (hence our praise and worship). He is the One we have wronged, and He is the One who forgives (hence our repentance, confession and the forgiveness God extends to us). He is the One who has the ability to answer our prayers and intercessions and supplications. He is the One to Whom we must return thanks for all His goodness, kindness, love and mercy which He extends to us. We “humble ourselves and pray” (2 Chr. 7:14).

Jesus’ prayers for the little children also illustrate this (Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:16). The disciples thought they were too young to come to Jesus, seeking His blessing, but Jesus said “Let the little children come to Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven!” And He took them in His arms and blessed them. Jesus loved the little children because of their humility and simple faith. Oh to be like little children again in everything they teach us about our approach to Jesus!

Jesus calls us to “Watch and pray” (Mark 13:33). As Christians we need to be spiritually aware of what is happening around us and pray accordingly. Praying after the flesh is little use, because there are spiritual powers behind what we see and hear, and we need divine

discernment to fully understand what is happening in the world. We need to “be led by the Spirit” as we pray.

Speaking about praying for deliverance, Jesus said that some things only happen after prayer and fasting (Mark 9:28-29). As we fast and wait on God, as He leads us by His Spirit, demonic powers will be overthrown and cast out. This is not a light thing – it is serious stuff; stuff for which we need to be prepared by prayer, fasting and Godly discernment and revelation.

We also need to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth labourers into the harvest fields of the world (Matt. 9:38; Luke 10:2). In a way this might seem strange, for surely the Lord calls forth His labourers, but often as we pray, God sends us! (cf. Isaiah 6:8).

It is easy to pray when we, or someone we know, has a need. It is relatively easy to spend time pleading with God when we are in desperate need. But how often, after our prayers have been answered, do we remember to return and give thanks? When Jesus miraculously healed 10 lepers of leprosy, only one returned to give Him thanks! How sad! Ten lives were absolutely changed for good by their healing, but only one said “Thank you!” On several occasions we read of Jesus giving thanks: see Luke 10:21-22; John 11:41-42; Matt. 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 22:17-19. Let us always give thanks for **every** prayer God answers and every prayer He hears.

A few other occasions on which Jesus prayed are:

On the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-29)

Asking the Father to glorify His Name (John 12:27-30)

Praying for the Holy Spirit to come (John 14:16)

Jesus telling His disciples to ask the Father in Jesus’ Name (John 16:23-26)

The Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4)

Jesus gave His disciples a very simple prayer outline which we call the Lord’s Prayer. It involves, in just a few verses, praise and worship, confession and intercession or supplication. It is highly unlikely that Jesus intended His disciples to merely repeat these verses! They simply outline three of the four main types of prayer, namely:

- Adoration** (praise and worship – focusing on the Lord and Who He is)
- Confession** of our sins (and the need to forgive others, because why should God forgive us if we are unwilling to forgive other people?)
- Supplication** (asking for our own needs and the needs of others)

Thanksgiving is not specifically mentioned here, but it should be the spontaneous overflow of a grateful heart!

Note, by the way, that Jesus said “When you pray ...” (Luke 11:2) not “If you pray ...”!

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Son of God need to pray?
2. As far as we know from the Gospels, where did Jesus often go to pray?
3. This study covers many different aspects of Jesus’ teaching and practice of prayer. What three aspects have particularly spoken to you?
4. How did Jesus expect His followers to use the “Lord’s Prayer” (as we call it)?
5. Why is humility such an important part of praying?
6. How can we still retain our faith in God when some important prayer we prayed isn’t “answered”?

8.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Jesus' Prayer – John 17

By reading the Gospels it is clear that Jesus spent much time in prayer – that is, in communion with His Father – and yet very little is said concerning how Jesus prayed or what He said, except in John 17 where we have by far the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. What did Jesus pray?

v. 1 He prayed that the Father and the Son would be glorified

As Christians, everything we do and every prayer we pray should ultimately glorify God. One good test of our prayers and intercessions is this: will the answer to our prayers glorify God? If not, then we are not praying correctly!

v. 2-3 He prayed for the salvation of the lost

One of the reasons we witness and pray for the salvation of the lost is not only so that they might be saved but also that God will be glorified by their salvation and transformed lives. And what is eternal life? Eternal life is a life-transforming experience of the Father and the Son; it is not merely an intellectual theology or the ability to sign a creed or doctrinal statement – it is knowing God.

Jesus' desire was to glorify the Father and finish the work He had given Him to do (v. 4-5 See also John 9:4).

v. 6-10 He prayed for His followers

Jesus had manifested God's Name, He preached God's Word, people had received God's words, believed, responded and had kept God's Word. Now He prayed for those followers (Christians – followers of Christ), that God would keep them – not that He would take them out of the world, but that He would keep them safe in the world: in the world but not of the world; in the world but not worldly; in the world but that the world would not be in them! (v. 11).

v. 11 He prayed for the unity of believers

He did not pray that they would be one in theory, but in reality and truth – as united as the Father and Son are one – in perfect harmony and love; of one mind, heart and Spirit.

v. 12-16 He prayed that they would have joy in spite of persecution

Jesus keeps those whom the Father has given Him and none is lost (except Judas who, as the Scripture foretold, fell away). Now He prays that His disciples will know Jesus' true inner joy in themselves, in spite of the world's hatred of them because they are not worldly, and in spite of all that the evil one might seek to do. "While in the world, Father, keep them from the evil one".

v. 17-19 He prayed for their sanctification

Jesus prayed that God's Word would be such a part of His followers' lives that they would be

sanctified (set apart, made holy) by His Word which is Truth. Even though they would be sent out into the world, they would be kept by His Word.

v. 20 He prayed for all who will believe

Jesus' prayer was not just for His immediate disciples, or even for the hundreds of other believers in His day – He also prayed for us and those following us, who will also believe and be saved. "I do not pray for these alone, but for all those who [through the centuries] will believe in Me through their word".

v. 21-23 He prayed that the world would believe

Jesus' desire was that the world might believe. How? Through the amazing unity that His followers, diverse though they might be, would demonstrate. Every act of disunity and conflict within the Body of Christ is to our shame and dishonours His precious Name. Worse, it gives unbelievers an excuse to remain in their unbelief and cynicism. God's desire is that we will be one in the same manner and to the same degree that He and the Father are one. Impossible? No! not with God's help and our obedience! If Jesus' life was truly manifest in our lives, day by day and moment by moment, we would demonstrate to the world such a remarkable unity that the world would know that the Father had sent Jesus. Moreover, if God's glory was upon us as it was upon Jesus, so that we were perfectly one, then the world would see the manifest love of God in us.

For example, in the early Church, the Christians were of one accord, they prayed with one voice and they were of one heart and soul (Acts 4:24, 32). Consequently, things happened when they prayed, and they saw the glory of God (Acts 4:31; 7:55-56).

v. 24 He prayed that we would always be with Him

There are many things Jesus desires to do in the world today. Often we lag behind, either because we do not seek His will or because we are disobedient when He reveals it to us. He wants us to be with Him wherever He goes and whatever He does. Jesus only did those things He saw the Father doing (John 5:19); likewise we need to be part of what the Lord is doing, just as the Israelites of old followed the cloud of God's glory wherever He went (Exod. 40:34-38).

v. 24 He prayed that we would see His glory

When we are sanctified, when we live in His Word and He lives in us, when we are one, both with Him and with other believers, we will begin to see His glory, and O! there is nothing like being in the presence of His glory, seeing a little of Him as He really is! "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then – face to face!" (1 Cor. 13:12).

v. 24-26 He prayed that God's love would be in us

Jesus prayed that the same love, to the same degree, with which the Father loved the Son, would also be in us! Hallelujah! Perfect love! Infinite love! Sacrificial love! What more could we ask? When such love is in us, how can we help but do what Jesus did: declare God's Name to the world and manifest that love to the world!

v. 26 He prayed that His life would be in us

"I in them". "Christ in you – the hope of glory!" (Col. 1:27). O! to be in Christ and for Christ to be in us – that is glory, and it glorifies God! (John 15:1-8).

This, then, is Jesus' prayer – something dear to the heart of God. If we want a model prayer on which to base our prayers, then here is that model, for in praying this prayer we know that we are praying according to God's will and therefore He will hear and answer! (1 John 5:14-15).

QUESTIONS

1. From this prayer we learn those things which are dear to the heart of God. What are some of them?
2. Is the unity Jesus prayed for, really possible? How?
3. What will convince the world that Jesus really is the Son of God?
4. "In the world but not of the world". What does this mean for us? How is it possible?
5. In what ways can the glory of God be seen in the Church?
6. Which major themes are common to both the Lord's Prayer and this prayer of Jesus? Which theme in the Lord's Prayer does not occur in John 17?

9.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Towards the cross

“Jesus set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51).

We now come to Jesus’ preparation for His last days on earth, and especially His death on the cross. At least three times He tried to prepare His disciples for His coming death but they did not fully understand. How could this Prophet, the Messiah, this holy One of Israel, who performed so many miracles – including raising people from the dead – die? And why? Many people followed after Him, listened to His teachings, saw His good deeds, and loved His compassion and acceptance of them, no matter who they were. Why did He have to die at the age of only about 33?

But Jesus knew His time was near. The sacrificial Lamb of God was being prepared to give His life for the sins of the world, so that whoever would come to Him, believe in Him and follow Him would receive eternal life; so that one day, where He was, they would be also.

All four Gospels record that Jesus, on at least three occasions, told His disciples of His coming death and resurrection. Jesus knew that death is not the end – it is merely a doorway into a new life – eternal life! And He is that door!

Matthew 16:21-28; Mark 8:31-9:1; Luke 9:21-27

“Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised”. Jesus knew from the Scriptures what lay before Him and while Peter tried to deny it, Jesus refused to turn back from what the Father had ordained for Him. Moreover, Jesus’ reference to His followers taking up their cross and following Him shows that He knew His death was to be on a Roman cross, and not by stoning, which was the Jewish custom and which some Jews had twice before tried to do (John 8:59; 10:31-33).

Matthew 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:44-45

Once again Jesus foretells His death, and resurrection three days later. This time He adds that the Son of Man will be betrayed, but He did not say by whom.

Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34

This is the third time Jesus speaks of His death, this time specifically telling His disciples that He will be condemned to death by the Jewish chief priests and scribes, and handed over to the Gentiles [Romans] to be mocked, flogged and crucified – but on the third day would rise again!

Each time Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man, fully identifying with Mankind who He had come to save and redeem. Yet never before had a son of man been raised from the dead, never to die again. Jesus was uniquely the Son of Man **and** the Son of God!

John’s Gospel also speaks of Jesus teaching about His death and resurrection, but in broader spiritual terms (See John 2:18-22; 8:21-30; 12:23-36; 13:21-30; 16:16-22).

Jesus' last days on earth

We now come to the last three phases of Jesus' life on earth:

- From Jerusalem to Gethsemane
- From Gethsemane to Calvary
- From Calvary to Glory

We need to remember that Jesus faced all of these events as a Man – the Son of Man – and as the Son of God, knowing what He was about to face, knowing what the prophets had foretold, knowing what the Father had prepared beforehand for Him, but willing to face all the humiliation, rejection and pain because of His incredible love for us. This was the only way that sinful people could be cleansed, forgiven and reconciled to a holy God. The Son of Man and Son of God was the fulfilment of the prophetic lamb which God provided for Abraham's sacrifice (Gen. 22:8, 13-14) and the prophetic Passover lamb from Moses' time onwards, until the death of the Lamb of God on the cross. There was no other way – but Jesus was willing to pay the price. Hallelujah – what a Saviour!

1. From Jerusalem to Gethsemane

Jesus' last week before His crucifixion began with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (see Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19). He came in fulfilment of Zechariah 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is He, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Imagine it – the King of kings and Lord of lords; the long-awaited Messiah, had arrived in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, triumphant and victorious as King, but in humility, riding on a donkey!

He received an overwhelming welcome from the people who spread their cloaks on the donkey and on the road before Him; cut down palm branches and spread them on the road and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest Heaven!" (quoting Psalm 118:26). Truly a glorious and fitting welcome to the King of Israel, the Messiah, the Son of God, from all those who had a heart to receive Him!

But all was not well. When the chief priests and scribes saw the amazing things that He did, and heard the children crying out in the Temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David", they became angry and plotted to kill Him.

It was the time of the Passover and Jesus and His disciples gathered for what was to be the last Passover Jesus would take part in.

Knowing what He was about to suffer, He directly applied the Passover to Himself: He broke the bread and said, "This is My body." He took the cup and said, "This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:26-28). Were it not for the fact that **this** Son of Man is also the Son of God, these words would have been blasphemous!

Jesus also foretold who would betray Him (John 13:21-30), that His disciples would forsake Him, and Peter would deny Him three times (Matt. 26:31-35). Jesus knew exactly what He was facing – **but went ahead with it because of His incredible love for you and me!**

In the Garden of Gethsemane we see the human-divine (Son of Man/Son of God) battle as Jesus wrestled with the agony of what lay ahead of Him, yet knowing that this was the

reason He had come. Read Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46.

When Judas, and the soldiers and police from the chief priests and Pharisees came to the Garden to arrest Jesus, we again see Jesus proclaiming His deity. "Who are you looking for?" He asked. They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth" (the Man). Jesus replied, "I AM" ("he" does not occur in the Greek!) When Jesus said that He was "I AM", they fell to the ground. Why? Because they were confronting not just the Son of Man but the Son of God! He asked again, "Who are you looking for?" and when they said "Jesus of Nazareth", He replied "I told you that I AM" (John 18:3-8).

Jesus had also spoken of His deity earlier. When He came to His disciples, walking on the water of the Sea of Capernaum, He said "I AM. Don't be afraid" (John 6:20). Later He said to some people, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins **unless you believe that I AM**" (John 8:24). "When you have lifted up the Son of Man [on the cross], then you will realise that I AM [the Son of God, the Eternal One]" (John 8:28). "Before Abraham was, I AM", Jesus said (John 8:58), taking upon Himself the Name of God, **YHWH**, with which the **LORD** revealed Himself to Moses (Exodus 3:13-15). There is absolutely no doubt from Scripture that Jesus, the Messiah (Christ) is both Son of Man (human) and Son of God (divine). *Hallelujah! What a Saviour!*

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the disciples still did not understand when Jesus told them at least three times that He was going to die and rise again from the dead?
2. What is the significance of Jesus repeatedly saying "I AM"?
3. What are some of the "I AM" names Jesus applied to Himself ("I Am the ...")?
4. In what ways is Jesus' death prophetically portrayed in Genesis 22:1-18 and Exodus 12:1-28?
5. How was Jesus able to fulfil the Old Covenant and introduce the New Covenant?
6. Who killed Jesus – Jews or Gentiles?

10.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

2. From Gethsemane to Calvary

Met by a band of soldiers and police; betrayed with a kiss from one of His own disciples; with an “offer of protection” from another disciple who drew a sword and struck the High Priest’s servant, Jesus healed the servant, told His followers not to fight – and allowed Himself to be arrested!

First He was taken to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas the High priest; then to Caiaphas; then to Pilate; then to Herod; and then back to Pilate. Problem: No-one could find any true accusation against Him, though He was ill-treated during this time of interrogation. Even Pilate could find nothing worthy of death. Knowing Barabbas’ crimes, Pilate thought the people might have chosen Jesus’ release rather than Barabbas’, but no, they were stirred up to demand Jesus’ death. Pilate’s wife warned Pilate not to put Jesus to death because of a dream she had; Pilate could find no fault in Him and tried to literally wash his hands of the matter, but his fear of creating trouble with the Emperor of Rome drove him to release Barabbas (at the people’s insistence) and put Jesus to death instead. Jesus became the “scapegoat” for Barabbas – and for us! Jesus died in our place. Jesus, the Son of Man, the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of the Jews (as the inscription on the cross read) died for your sins and mine. Barabbas is never mentioned again; I wonder if he ever became a believer and follower of the One who took his place on the cross and set him free?

The shame, the pain, the agony, the humility, the grief, the injustice were all covered by darkness for three hours. Then that darkest darkness of all as He cried “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” His blood was shed and He took the curse of separation from God so that we might enjoy eternal life and fellowship with God. Hallelujah! What a Saviour! What a price to pay! What a Saviour! The Son of God became the sacrificial Lamb of God; what a Saviour!

3. From Calvary to Glory

But that’s not the end! From the cross to a borrowed tomb – “borrowed” because it would not be needed for long! As Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a great fish, so Jesus was 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth (Matt. 12:38-42).

Then, in the early hours of the morning of the first day of the week some women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body for proper burial only to find He was gone! Sealed in a tomb, guarded by Roman soldiers, this Man Who had died such a cruel and agonising death had now risen from the dead – the Son of Man yet Son of God is alive forevermore!

- The angels declared it: “He is not here; He is risen!”
- The empty tomb declared it: “He is not here; He is risen!”
- The women declared it: “He is not here; He is risen!”
- Thomas declared it: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20).

The Man Christ Jesus had risen. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, was alive forevermore!

Having proved His physical resurrection from the dead by eating bread and fish (Luke 24:36-43; John 21:9-14) and by inviting Thomas to “touch Me and see” (John 20:24-29), the Lord gave His parting words to His disciples. He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

and He said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. See, I am sending upon you what My Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on High."

He blessed them and was carried up into Heaven. The disciples worshipped Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were in the temple continually, blessing God (Luke 24:45-53).

Truly, the Lord Jesus Christ is both Son of Man and Son of God!

Implications for us today

"Jesus" means "Saviour" and "Christ" means "anointed, Messiah". The Holy One of Israel, the Messiah, our Lord, came to save us from sin and separation from God, to redeem us (buy us back from slavery to sin) and restore us back to the fellowship Adam and Eve had with God before they sinned.

The Son of Man came into the world, conceived by God's Holy Spirit, to live life on earth the same as we do. He fully identified with Mankind – with you and me! He lived on this earth; He knew joy, sorrow, good times and bad. He suffered, He died, as we all do. He knows what it is like to live in this sinful, fallen world. He knows, He feels, He loves and He cares; He understands everything we go through.

***"What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer!"***

Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, the unique, only begotten Son of God, as well as the Son of Man. As Son of God, the perfect spotless Lamb of God, He died and paid the price for all of our sins. On the cross He declared, "It is finished!" The penalty for sin was dealt with – paid in full – once and for all. Good works cannot save us – they are the **fruit** of our salvation, not the **means** to our salvation! (Eph. 2:8-10). Salvation comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our acceptance of His sacrifice for all our sins. There is no other way; there is no other religion by which we can be saved, simply because the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God, the perfect Lamb of God, are the only way to reconciliation with a holy God. "There is salvation in no-one else, for there is no other name under Heaven, given amongst men, by whom **we must be saved**" (Acts 4:10-12). "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; **no-one comes to the Father except through Me**", Jesus said (John 14:6).

*"Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness; and being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and gave Him the Name that is above every name, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that **'Jesus Christ is Lord'** to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:5-11)*

Jesus' humanity is seen in His punishment and death on the cross.

Jesus' deity is seen in His resurrection, ascension to Heaven and His coming again in glory!

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus so hated by some people?
2. Why did Pilate hand Jesus over to be crucified, even though he could find no fault in Him?
3. What is a scapegoat?
4. Why did God the Father forsake His Son when Jesus was crucified?
5. Why did Jesus eat bread and fish with His disciples, and tell Thomas to touch Him, after His resurrection?
6. What does Hebrews 4:14-16 tell us about the Son of God and Son of Man?

11.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ

Having looked briefly at Who Jesus Christ is, it should be very obvious that He is absolutely unique! He, and only He, is the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16); He was also born of the virgin Mary and so is also the Son of Man.

As the **Son of Man** He fully identified with humanity; He fully understands us and He fully understands everything we go through.

As the **Son of God** He is the one Who brings us to His Father for He is our perfect Saviour – the spotless Lamb of God Who takes away our sins.

Never before or since has a man lived a perfect life. Never before or since has God raised a man from the dead, never to die again.

Right through the New Testament to the book of Revelation, Jesus was declared to be both the Son of God and the Son of Man. In fact 45 times in the New Testament Jesus is called the Son of God, and 70 times He is called the Son of Man.

All the other leaders of the world's "great" religions were sinners like the rest of us, and they are now dead and buried – but Jesus Christ is alive for evermore, because "it was not possible for death and the grave to hold Him ..." – in spite of His sealed tomb and the Roman guards! (Acts 2:22-24).

No other religion has a Saviour Who can save us; a Saviour Who fully understands us because He became a Man; a Man Who is perfect in every way. No other religion has a Saviour Who gave His life for the sins of Mankind so that we could be reconciled with the Almighty, holy, perfect God! Jesus Christ is the world's **only** Saviour!

Jesus' claims

Jesus Himself made many claims about Who He is. For example, He said:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No-one comes to (God) the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

"I and the Father are One" (John 10:30). "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Jesus said "I am ... the bread of life, the bread from Heaven, the light of the world, the door, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the true vine"; and John the Baptist announced Him as the Lamb of God (John 6:35; 6:41; 8:12; 10:9; 10:11; 11:25-26; 15:1; 1:29 respectively).

But Jesus also made one more extraordinary claim: He said He is the "I AM"! (See, for example, John 18:3-8). When God revealed Himself to Moses and Moses asked God what was His Name, God said "I AM" (YHWH or Yahweh) – I am, I was and I always will be; the eternal God, without beginning or end (Ex. 3:13-15). I AM is the present continuous tense, implying no beginning, always present, no end – timeless and eternal! This Name was so revered by the Israelites that when the vowels were put into the ancient Hebrew words

(which originally had no vowels) they were omitted from the word YHWH because it was so holy they did not even speak it – they used other names for God because His name was too holy to be spoken!

Then Jesus said “I AM ... and you will die in your sins unless you believe that I AM”! See John 8:24-28, 58-59; 10:30-39; 13:19; 18:3-8; Mark 6:50.

See also: Isaiah 43:10-13; 48:12; Col. 1:15-20; Rev. 1:4, 8; 4:8.

Note: In some translations of the Bible the translators have inserted the word “*he*” after “I AM” – sometimes in italics, because “He” does **not** occur in the Greek. They have tried to make the statement sound better (“I am He”, but Jesus actually said, “I AM.”) For example, when the soldiers and police came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and they said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth, He answered, “I AM” – not “I am He” or “Yes, I am Jesus”. When He used the divine name I AM the soldiers fell to the ground. Why? Not because He was “Jesus of Nazareth” but because He is I AM (YHWH)! See John 18:3-8.

It is quite clear that the Jews fully understood what Jesus was saying because *twice* they took up stones to stone Him to death. Why? Because they thought He was committing blasphemy by making Himself equal with God (John 8:58-59; 10:30-33). They knew what Jesus was saying, but did not want to accept it!

Jesus the Messiah in Old Testament prophecy

The coming of Jesus the Messiah (Yeshua ha Mashiach) was prophesied in the Old Testament, e.g., His virgin birth was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14. In Isaiah 9:6 He was called “Mighty God”. His death was prophesied in Isaiah 53. See also Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-56.

He is Emmanuel – God with us! (Not ‘God *is* with us’ but ‘**God** with us’!) See Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23.

His name “Jesus” means “Saviour”, and “Messiah” means “the One anointed by God”. He is God the Father’s anointed Son and our Saviour. He was much more than *a* Son of God – He was **the** Son of God – the only begotten Son of God (Ps. 2:7; John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:2-9, 13; 5:5; 1 John 4:9; 5:1, 18). No ordinary son of man (ben Adam) could be the Messiah or forgive another person’s sin. *“There was no other good enough, to take away our sin; He only could unlock the gates, of Heaven and let us in!”* as the old hymn says.

When Pilate wrote the inscription which was placed on the cross above Jesus’ head, he wrote in Hebrew, Latin and Greek: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews” (John 19:19-22). The chief priests reacted to this description of Jesus and wanted it changed. They claimed they had no king but Caesar (politically) – and no King but YHWH spiritually. But Pilate said “What I have written, I have written”.

Of course, death was not the end for Jesus. And when He rose from the dead and appeared to Thomas, he said “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Jesus didn’t rebuke him for saying this; He accepted his worship – for what he said is true! Although we are not to worship even angels (Rev. 19:9-10; 22:8-9) Jesus accepted worship from His followers, because He is equal with God.

Old Testament illustrations

Two Old Testament **prophetic illustrations** of Jesus the Messiah are found in Genesis and Exodus.

Genesis 22:1-18

Notice the following, all of which prophetically look forward to the coming of Jesus:

1. The father laid the wood on his son – his only son whom he loved (v. 2 and 6; cf. John 3:16)
2. “**We** will come back” (v. 5) even though the father intended to slay his son, his son would come back too.
3. God will provide the lamb (v. 8)
4. A male lamb was provided (v. 13)
5. The lamb was sacrificed instead of us (v. 13)
6. The father did not withhold his own son, his only son (v. 15)
7. By his offering, all the earth would be blessed (v. 17-18)
8. This occurred on Mt. Moriah, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (v. 2, 14; 2 Chr. 3:1)
9. All this occurred about 2000 years before the only begotten Son of God was sacrificed for the sins of the world!

What an absolutely incredible prophetic illustration!

Exodus 12:5-14

1. A lamb, without blemish, male, young (Jesus was about 33 years of age when He died on the cross)
2. Blood was shed at twilight – as the sun was setting (Jesus died about 3 p.m.)
3. The blood was to be placed on the doorposts and the lintel above the door – a covering for everyone who entered or left the house
4. They were to eat unleavened bread (leaven was used later as a symbol of sin)
5. They were to eat bitter herbs because this was a dreadful occasion
6. The angel would pass over the houses where the blood had been shed and applied; hence the term “the Passover”
7. Only those who obeyed what the Lord told them to do were saved

About 1700 years later, Jesus took the Passover (the Last Supper) with His disciples before He became the sacrificial Lamb of God Who shed His Blood for our salvation. Hallelujah!

Jesus predicts His death and resurrection

Before this Last Supper, Jesus three times prophesied of His coming death and resurrection (Matt. 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19). Peter rebuked Him for saying this, no doubt thinking that Jesus was too young to die, too innocent, His ministry had only just begun (about three and a half years earlier); Jesus was loved too much, wanted and needed by the people – but Jesus knew what He was called to do. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane Peter tried to intervene and prevent Jesus’ arrest by drawing a sword and cutting off the ear of the servant of the High Priest – which Jesus placed back on the servant and healed him! It is one thing to act and pray out of love and compassion, but this is not necessarily in the Holy Spirit. We are to act and pray in the Spirit, not in the flesh (no matter how well intentioned that might be)!

In the Garden

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus faced His impending death by crucifixion and the agonising torture which preceded His death. Knowing what lay ahead of Him, He prayed to His Father, “If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me ...” As a Man He recoiled from what He faced, but He also said, “... nevertheless not My will but Yours be done” (Matt. 26:26-30, 36-46). **No other way!**

“If it be possible, let this cup pass from Me ...” But it was NOT POSSIBLE! There was NO OTHER WAY! There was NO OTHER SINLESS SON OF GOD who could pay the price for your sin and mine! There is NO OTHER SAVIOUR!

Is the Christian faith the **only** way to God, or just the **best** way to God, or even one of **many** ways to God?

The Bible is absolutely clear:

No other way: Jesus prayed “... nevertheless not My will but Yours be done” because He knew there was no other way! “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no-one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

No other name: “There is no other name in Heaven or on earth given among men by which we **must** be saved” (Acts 4:12).

No other God: There is no other God – the eternal I AM. Jesus said, “I and the Father are One”; “Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father”; “I AM”.

Why Jesus only? Jesus Christ is absolutely unique – the perfect, sinless Son of God and also the Son of Man.

***Now unto Him Who is able to keep you from falling
And present you faultless before the presence of His Glory
With exceeding joy;
To the only wise God our Saviour
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power
Both now and forever, Amen! (Jude 24-25)***

QUESTIONS

1. In what way(s) is Jesus different from every other person who has ever lived?
2. What things in the New Testament indicate that Jesus is uniquely **the** Son of God?
3. Why didn't Jesus simply say “I am God”?
4. What is the significance of Jesus repeatedly saying “I am”?
5. Why can't there be any other way to salvation except through Jesus Christ?
6. What did Isaiah prophesy about the coming Messiah that was fulfilled by Jesus?

12.

Jesus Christ – Son of God & Son of Man

Son of God and Son of Man – what does this all mean for me?

What are the implications – in my life and the lives of every Christian – of the fact that Jesus Christ is both Son of God and Son of Man? This is much more than just a theological statement of Who Jesus is; it has an important meaning for every Christian!

As Son of God – we worship Him
As Son of Man – we follow Him

He is **the** Son of God – we are sons of God
He is **the** Son of Man – we are sons of men

Of course, Jesus does not have two different characters and He is not two different people, so, to a certain extent, we have to be careful how we speak of Him being Son of God but also Son of Man. However, the following are some of the implications of His unique nature, though various aspects overlap.

Son of Man

One of the main consequences of Jesus as the Son of Man is that He was born into this physical world in which we live; He lived and died, partly to be an example to us of how we should live – we should “walk in His steps” Peter wrote: “If you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval; for to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, *leaving you an example so that you should follow in His steps*” (1 Peter 2:20-21).

As Christians, we need to study the life of Christ (as primarily given to us in the Gospels) for He has shown us the way, taught us the truth and demonstrated the sort of life we ought to live. He – the Way, the Truth and the Life – has left us an example and we are to follow in His steps; that’s what it means to be a disciple of Jesus!

It is also very encouraging to know that Jesus hasn’t always “sat in Heaven” and told us what to do – He came to earth and appreciates everything we go through, good and bad! “We have a great High Priest ... Jesus, the Son of God ... We do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the Throne of Grace with boldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need” (Heb. 4:14-16; see also 1 Cor. 10:13). Jesus identifies with us in everything we go through because He has already gone through the same sort of things, right to the point of death (and resurrection – which we have yet to experience!) Isn’t it wonderful to know that Jesus knows, understands, cares and can help us through every time of need?

Hebrews 2:10-18 enlarges this thought of Jesus’ earthly life and how He can help us. For example, this passage tells us that “Since the children [us] share flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared the same things so that, through death, He might destroy the one who has the power of death. ... Because He Himself was tested by what He suffered, He is able to help those who are being tested.”

He knows and understands our pains, our sorrows and grief, for He Himself was acquainted with sorrows and grief, and bore our pains and sickness on the cross (Is. 53:3).

He knows, He cares, He loves, He disciplines, He encourages, He leads and He provides. He has gone before us to show us the way. He has died, risen again and ascended into Heaven as our Forerunner – going before us to show us the way, all the way, into the presence of God our Father. Hallelujah! What a Saviour! What a Friend!

So when Jesus calls us and says, “Follow Me” – what a very sensible thing it is to do!

Jesus, during His time on earth, fed the hungry, spoke to outcasts, healed the sick, preached about God His Father and how to live our daily lives (e.g., the Sermon on the Mount), He rebuked demons, visited both rich and poor, the healthy and lepers, infants and elderly, Jews and Gentiles. Nothing and no-one was “too holy” or “too unholy”, too rich or too poor, too influential, religious, too remote – He had time to speak to all who came to Him (though sometimes the words were of stern rebuke).

He summed up all the Old Testament Commandments into two: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbor as you love yourself.” If only we all lived this way – daily!

Son of God

Jesus was also, uniquely, the Son of God. His nature and character were those of God. He accepted people’s worship, thus demonstrating His divine nature. For example, twice in the book of Revelation, John was told not to bow down to angels (Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9). But Jesus constantly accepted people’s worship, for He is God.

When Thomas finally saw the wounds in Jesus’ hands and side, after His resurrection, he proclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:24-29). Why didn’t Jesus rebuke him for saying this; why did He accept this confession? Because it was true! Jesus is Lord! Jesus is God – one with the Father and Holy Spirit.

The power, authority, wisdom and glory of God were with Jesus and were manifested on a number of occasions during His earthly life (e.g., His ability to heal the sick and raise the dead miraculously; the authority with which He spoke and taught; His wisdom in dealing with difficult situations and people; His glory manifest on the Mount of Transfiguration; His resurrection from the dead; His ascension into Heaven – and sitting at the right hand of God the Father!)

Jesus is also with us forever – “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the earth” (Matt. 28:20). Everywhere and anywhere we are, we are never alone; His love, power, grace and mercy are with us always. We are not forgotten!

It is therefore entirely appropriate that the One Who is our Mediator between God the Father and mankind, should be worshipped, loved, served and obeyed.

We are sons of God and sons of men

If we have been born again by the Holy Spirit we have become children of God. We are both sons of God and sons of men. Both! Not either/or, but both. Not sometimes one and sometimes the other. Not a child of God on Sunday mornings and an ordinary human being like the rest of the world for the rest of the week.

We are called to be uniquely different from those who are not yet Christians!

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 says, "... so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life. ... Keep these words I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away; when you lie down and when you arise. Bind them as a sign on your hand; fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

In other words, wherever we are, whatever we are doing, we must remember that we are the children of God, His disciples, as well as living in a fallen, sinful world. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father Who is in Heaven!**" (Matt. 5:16).

Finally, in the beautiful words of Joseph Scriven (1820-1886), let us always remember:

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus only is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer,
In His arms He'll take and shield you, you will find a solace there.

QUESTIONS

1. What are three very encouraging things you have personally found about Jesus being the Son of Man?
2. What are three very encouraging things you have personally found about Jesus being the Son of God?
3. What challenges have you personally found in this Bible study?
4. What lines in Joseph Scriven's hymn particularly speak to you, and why?
5. What do you plan to do as a result of learning about "Jesus Christ – Son of God and Son of Man"?
6. Are there some things in Deuteronomy 6:1-9 which speak to you about your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ? What are they?