

Jesus, the Lamb of God

Who is Jesus?

Many people have many differing ideas of who Jesus is.

To the Muslims he is merely a prophet.

To the Hindus he is one of the many gods

To others he was a good religious teacher

And other say that he was merely a good man from whom we can learn good ethics

Others say he was a deceiver and a liar

Still other think that he was a lunatic

In Matthew 16: 13 – 16 Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked, “Who do you say I am?”

“Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Who did John the Baptist say Jesus is?

John 1: 29 – 42

1) The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

- It is significant that the first time a lamb is mentioned in the Bible is when Abraham was going to sacrifice his son, Isaac.
 - Genesis 22: 7 - 8 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.
 - Abraham had enough faith that God would provide a substitute lamb in place of his son
- John was not necessarily referring to Jesus as the Passover Lamb.
 - The Passover lamb did not take away the sin of Israel but merely appeased God's wrath so that He passed over the houses with the blood of lamb on the doorposts
 - The Passover lamb was particularly for the Israelites and not for everyone.
- John referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 - Jesus' mission was to extend beyond the boundaries of Israel to the whole world.
 - Israel was merely God's starting point of God's purposes in the world.

God gives us a starting point to fulfill His purposes in the world, but He intends us to broaden our horizons to include much more.

- The Jews at that time couldn't comprehend how God would include the whole world in His purposes. After all they were the chosen people.
- They reacted the thought of this:
 - In Luke 4: 24 – 28 when Jesus mentioned the widows and the lepers in Israel but God sent Elijah to the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian were healed
 - In Acts 22: 21 – 22 when Paul told the Jewish crowd that God will send him to the Gentiles.

Have we limited God to certain boundaries that He has never intended?

- Jesus was to come after John and surpass him because he was before John (v.30)
 - This seems like a contradiction. How can Jesus come after John but be before John?
 - John was older than Jesus so how can Jesus have been before John?
- 2) The Son of God anointed by the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit had revealed to John who Jesus is.
 - When Elizabeth and Mary were pregnant and Mary visited Elizabeth she was filled with the Holy Spirit and the baby leaped in her womb. (Luke 1: 41)
 - John was aware that Jesus was no ordinary man.
 - He knew that Jesus was the Son of God who had existed prior to his human birth.
 - Jesus said in John 8: 58: “Before Abraham was born, I am.”
 - He used the same words – I am – that God used when he revealed himself to Moses.
 - That means – I am eternal, always the same, timeless, always present
 - The Creator of the heavens and the earth had entered the realm of man. (John 1: 1 – 3, 14)
 - John stated “I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God” (v.34)
 - John knew who Jesus was as God had told him that Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit comes down. It is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
 - Even though Jesus is God come in flesh he was still baptized in the Holy Spirit when He began His ministry.
 - He was beginning His purpose for which He had come to earth and received the anointing as God’s Messiah.
 - Jesus did not only come to take away the sins of the world but He came to baptize us in the Holy Spirit.
 - We need the empowering of the Holy Spirit to fulfill God’s purpose in our lives
 - If we try and do God’s work in our way and in our strength we will surely fail.
 - Even the disciples who had spent 3½ years with Jesus needed the empowering of the Holy Spirit before that embarked on their service for Him.
- 3) A choice to make
- When 2 of John’s disciples heard him point at Jesus and refer to him as “the Lamb of God” they had a choice to make.
 - They could continue their lives being content that they had received the baptism of repentance from John.
 - They could follow Jesus and receive the forgiveness of sins and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - Having something good can hinder us from having God’s best.
 - Being religious was no substitute for the new life that Jesus came to give.
 - They moved from Jesus being “Teacher” to Him being their Messiah (v.38, 41)
 - Meeting Jesus causes us to move into action of letting others know that we have discovered the Messiah – the Christ – the one who forgives sins and gives new life.
 - Jesus gives us a new identity

Who do you say that Jesus is?

How does He impact your life today?