

The Life of Christ – Part 4

Today on It's a Good Life, we continue our study in the life of Christ. This will be study number four.

When Jesus asked the question, "Who do men say that I am?" men have had all kinds of different ideas about who Jesus really is. In the days when our Lord walked this Earth, there were people who thought that Jesus was John the Baptist. Others thought he was Elijah. Others thought he was Jeremiah and still others thought He was one of the prophets.

In Matthew 16:13-14, it says, ¹³*When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?* ¹⁴*And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

His enemies said that He was a mad man who was possessed by a devil, according to John 10:20. It says in verse 19: *There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings... what Jesus was saying.* Verse 20 says: *And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is made; why hear ye him?*

Jesus has always had enemies, and if you're saved today, if you know Jesus as your Savior, you know that you can be persecuted. There are people in the church today... I'm talking about His church... There are people who are serving God who are being persecuted daily. And there are people actually giving their lives for our Lord today. We don't see that yet in our country; I pray that we don't, but we need to stay close to the cross, stay close to Jesus, and pray that one day we'll see a great revival sweep our nation.

Some accused Him, that's Jesus, of performing His miracles by the power of Satan.

In Matthew 12:22-26, ²²*Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.* ²³*And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?* ²⁴*But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.* ²⁵*And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:* ²⁶*And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?*

Mark 3:22 says: *And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.*

These men were lost and there are people today who refuse to receive Jesus as Savior. They would rather have Satan as their God.

We also see that some called him a Samaritan, which to the Jews was a most hateful and insulting term, and in John 8:48, it says, *Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and has a devil?*

They insulted Jesus constantly. Some thought He was a mere man who claimed to be equal with God and therefore a man who was worthy of death, according to John 10:30-33.

John 19:7 says, *The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.*

Why would He do that? Because He is the Son of God. He is very God Himself. And these people refused to believe that. People today have many different ideas about who Jesus was and is. Some say He was a great teacher, and they say that today, that He was only a teacher. Others believed that He was a famous prophet. Some might even say that Jesus was the most righteous and perfect man who ever lived, but they believed he was only a man. How can people say that He was a great teacher when He taught about Himself and they don't believe what He taught about Himself. How could they say He was a great teacher if they don't believe what He taught?

Nothing is more important than a person's concept of who Jesus really is. If I truly believe Jesus Christ is Almighty God, then I will bow down before Him, love and adore Him, as the song says. If I really believe that He is Lord, then I'll serve and obey Him. If I believe He is a liar, then I'll never trust Him. If I believe He's a madman, then I'll never come to Him. If He was only a good teacher, then I'll consider what He says, but I'll also read and believe what other good teachers say. If He was only a prophet, then I will be looking for other prophets to show me the way to God. If He were a mere man who died two thousand years ago, then He is still dead with no power to change my life today.

I've got news for you. He didn't stay dead. He rose from the grave and He's alive forevermore. He's with the Father in Heaven. He's there to make intercession for us. He's there to remind us that, if we call upon His name, He'll save us. Thank God I did that one day and I'm praying that you did the same. If you didn't,

you need to ask Him to come into your heart right now.

Well, who does Jesus say He is? In Mark 14:61-62, it says, ⁶¹*But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?* ⁶²*And Jesus said, I am...* If you'll study this, you'll find that He was saying He's God here. "I am," that's referring to the Great I Am. And He goes on to say, *and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

Every eye shall behold Him, the Bible says. That's not the Rapture of the church. That's when he comes back for judgment, to judge this world. He's sitting right now at the right hand of power to make intercession for the saints. Jesus in many ways seemed to be like any other man of His day. His physical appearance was not unusual and He certainly resembled other Jewish men who then lived in Palestine. He did not have a glowing light or a halo around His head as some paintings suggest, nor did He have the long flowing hair and the locks that made Him look different from His disciples and the other men of His day. Christ's earthly ministry started when He was about thirty years old. He was not an effeminate person. He was a man among men whose voice thundered out and told people, as John told them, they must repent and come to the Savior, and, of course, He is the Savior.

The Bible tells us in Luke 3:23, *And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli.* Jesus was a man among men. And I want you to notice something here. It says here, "as was supposed the son of Joseph." He had no earthly father. He was adopted by Joseph. His Heavenly Father sent Him. *[The Father] gave His only*

begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,
John 3:16.

Let us consider some of the claims of Jesus. Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, God's anointed King. And the Jews who knew the Old Testament Scriptures would have understood that He was the promised Messiah had they studied the Scriptures. But they were like so many today who do not study the Scriptures. I'm speaking even of saved people who do not study the Scriptures. They don't recognize spiritual things because the spiritual things that we need to know are contained or found in the Word of God.

If you want to be a giant for God, if you want to be someone who is not so much uplifted by man but uplifted by God, then you'll get into the Scriptures. And remember, we studied in one of our studies that Jesus was a man of prayer. You'll be praying and you'll be asking God for guidance.

When a man claimed to be the Messiah, it was if He were saying, "I want you all to know that I am God's promised King, the one who is the eternal and mighty Jehovah God who shall reign forever and ever." That's quite a claim. Jesus claimed that. He could claim that because He is the Messiah. When Jesus said to the Samaritan women at the well, "I am He," He was claiming to be the Messiah, John 4:25-26.

Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and when the man who was born blind asked Jesus, "Who is the Son of God?" Jesus said, "Thou hath both seen Him and it is He that talketh with thee." Jesus was saying, "I am the Son of God," John 9:35-38. Jesus told the Jews He was the Son of God in John 10:36. Jesus told the high priest He was the Son of God in Mark 14:61-62. Note this, Jesus did not usually refer to Himself as

the Messiah or as the Son of God, though on certain occasions He certainly claimed to be such. The title that He most frequently applied to Himself was the Son of Man. The significance of this term is seen in the fact that Daniel used it to describe the Messiah who would appear to establish an everlasting kingdom, and in His trial, Jesus referred to this very passage. You can read that in Matthew 26:64.

Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins. Jesus, the only person who can really forgive us, is the person we have offended and sinned against, and God is the only One who can forgive sin. Psalm 51:1-4 says, *¹Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

We've offended a mighty God, the Almighty God, because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The Bible says, for as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned, and it goes on to say that one man, Jesus Christ, God's Son, He is the only one that can deliver us from this body of death. It's Jesus Christ who can deliver you today if you'll trust Him.

Since only God can forgive sin, then Christ must be God. The Old Testament and New Testament point to Jesus as God. In Psalm 23:1, the Bible says, *The Lord is my shepherd.* According to Jesus in John 10:11, 14, He is the Good Shepherd. He said, *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.* In the Old Testament, the Bible says

the Lord God is the first and the last in Isaiah 41:4 and 44:6. The New Testament points to Jesus, the Son of Man, as the first and the last in Revelation 1:13, 17-18, 2:8. In the Old Testament, the Bible says, *The LORD is my rock*, Psalm 18:2. And the New Testament says Christ was the Rock, I Corinthians 10:4.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Ask Him to come into your heart. The life of Jesus, the life of Christ, and we're seeing this man and we've seen today that He is God. He is the Son of God. He is the Savior. Trust Him today as your Savior.

And if you are saved, live for Him.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.