

# Whom Do You Follow?

## Part One: Getting to Know Jesus

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Much of this lesson was derived from Mark Dunagan's, "*Jesus of Nazareth*", [www.beavertonchurchofchrist.net](http://www.beavertonchurchofchrist.net)

### Introduction

1. In Matt. 16:24, Jesus said, "*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*"
2. Following this same thought, He said in the Great Commission in Matt. 28:19, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...*", i.e., make followers of Me from the nations.
3. To follow Jesus is what we must strive for if we want salvation (Acts 4:12).
4. In order to succeed in this, we must come who know who He really is.

### Discussion

#### I. Jesus of Nazareth

- A. Not 'Jesus the Great,' but 'Jesus the Only'
  1. Men refer to Alexander the Great and Napoleon the Great
  2. Jesus is not "the Great". He is in a class of His own; He is Jesus the Only.
  3. When men say the name Jesus, everyone knows who they are talking about.
- B. Rev. 22:13: "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*"

#### II. He was sinless:

- A. Great leaders in the world can claim many things:
  1. Smartest, strongest, fastest, most powerful.
  2. But not a single one has ever been able to claim to be sinless!
  3. But sinless perfection is what we would expect if God became flesh (John 1:1-3, 14).
  4. That is a claim that Jesus alone has been able to make.
- B. John 8:46: He challenged His questioners to find any fault in Him—they could find none.
  1. Mark 1:15: He commanded all others to repent.
  2. But we never see Jesus confessing sin or needing to repent.
  3. He does not need to repent because He never did sin—rather He takes away the sins of those who repent.
  4. Matt. 26:27-28: At the last supper He said, "*This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" –He is the Savior.
- C. John 8:29: Jesus said, "*I always do the things that are pleasing to Him [the Father].*"
- D. Heb. 4:15-16: Being sinless, Jesus was able to offer Himself for the sins of others.
  1. John 10:14: Other men are lost sheep, but Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
  2. Matt. 9:12-13: Other men are sick. Jesus is not sick nor does He need a physician, **Jesus is the Physician!**
  3. John 8:12: Other men are in darkness, Jesus not only brings the light, He is the light.

#### III. He Was the Center of His Teachings

- A. "*I am the bread of life*": John 6:35 – come to Him for the food of life.
- B. "*I am the light of the world*": John 8:12 – come to Him in order to cast off darkens.
- C. "*I am the resurrection and the life*": John 11:25 – come to Him for the resurrection.

- D. *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"*: John 14:6
  - 1. Other leaders will try to point you in the right direction.
  - 2. They will say they *know* the truth.
  - 3. They will say, "That is the truth over there; that is what you must do."
  - 4. Jesus said, "I **AM** THE TRUTH!"
- E. *"Come unto Me...I will give you rest...learn from Me"*: Matt. 11:28-30
- F. He explained things concerning Himself in all of the Old Testament Scriptures: Luke 24:27
  - 1. Jesus was the center of His own teaching.
  - 2. He also showed that He was the center of all of the O.T. Scriptures as well.
  - 3. **If we want to know what the Bible is all about, we need to come to know the person of Jesus Christ!**

#### IV. His Amazing Attitude

- A. He was devoid of worldly ambitions:
  - 1. John 6:15: Many people would love to be exalted.
  - 2. But when they tried to make Jesus king by force He would have none of it.
  - 3. Mark 10:17-22: Rather than using the rich young ruler to gain riches and prestige, Jesus told him to sell all that he had.
- B. He always knew the right answer; He never expressed doubt on any subject
  - 1. Matt. 19, 22 – Answered every question: Marriage and divorce, paying taxes, the resurrection, etc.
  - 2. He spoke as having all truth and all authority: Matt. 7:29,
  - 3. He never appealed to human philosophy—but always used God's word.
  - 4. He never had to apologize for anything that He taught because he never made a mistake. How many religious or political leaders can say the same?
  - 5. He was tested with the most complicated questions of the day and answered them successfully with the most uncomplicated teachings.
- C. He was free from prejudice and hatred: Mark 16:15-16
  - 1. Matt. 9:10-14; John 4:9: Taught sinners: tax collectors, harlots—without prejudice.
  - 2. Did not fawn to the rich or prestigious.
  - 3. Did not reject the humble (Matt. 5:3-5; Luke 7:36-38, 44-48).
  - 4. He was not impressed with physical things—the only thing that impressed Him was faith (Matt. 8:10).

#### V. Amazing Claims We Must Believe For Salvation

- A. The ability to forgive sins: Mark 2:1-12.
  - 1. He was not only sinless.
  - 2. He had the ability to forgive the sins of others.
- B. The ability to bestow spiritual life:
  - 1. John 14:6: No one can come to the Father except through Jesus.
  - 2. John 10:28: Jesus is able to give others eternal life.
- C. He is the Son of God: John 5:17-23
  - 1. He did not say "*Our* Father is working," but "*MY* Father is working"!
  - 2. They understood that He was making Himself the Son of God.
  - 3. As God's Son, Jesus did EVERYTHING the Father told Him to.
  - 4. As God's Son, Jesus gives life just as the Father does.
  - 5. As the Father is glorified so the Son also must be glorified.

- D. As the Father is pre-existent, so Jesus is pre-existent: John 8:58
- E. Through the life of Jesus, we are able to come to know God: John 14:8-11
- F. Jesus will be the Judge at the last day: John 5:22 (committed judgment to Son).
  - 1. Matt. 25:40: The criterion for the judgment will be men's attitude toward their brethren—Jesus calls them His brethren.
  - 2. His word will outlast the creation (Matt. 24:35) and it is His words that we must appeal to for the standard of our judgment (John 12:48).
  - 3. Matt. 10:32-33: Those who acknowledge Him before other men will be acknowledged before the Father, but those who deny Him will be denied.
  - 4. Matt. 7:23: For a man to be excluded in the last day, it will be enough for Jesus to say, "I never knew you."
- G. Jesus must be the object of man's faith
  - 1. John 8:24: "If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
  - 2. John 6:35: "He who believes in Me shall never thirst"
  - 3. John 6:29: Faith in Him is the work of God.
  - 4. John 3:36: Faith in Him is to have eternal life.
- H. He must be the object of man's love
  - 1. Matt. 10:37-39: Jesus expected to put Him above all other, lesser loves.
  - 2. We must love Jesus before:
    - a. Father or mother.
    - b. Son or daughter.
    - c. Even our own life.
  - 3. He must be the main focus of man's love; the most loyalty reserved for Him; the most devotion and adoration reserved for Him!

### **Conclusion**

- 1. Jesus is either the Son of God and all good, or He is an elaborate liar and all bad—there is no middle ground.
- 2. If we acknowledge that Jesus is good, then we must acknowledge everything that He said about Himself and we must follow Him.
- 3. If we will not follow Him then we are, by our actions, denying Jesus as Lord and Christ!
- 4. Many people claim to love Jesus, but know nothing of His true character, nature, or teachings.
- 5. If we are to follow Jesus we must become familiar with who He is.
- 6. Do you know enough about Jesus to know if He really is the One whom you follow?

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