

SERMON NOTES

From *In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley*



Who Is This Man Called Jesus?

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 16:13-16 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:26 | Matthew 1:21 | John 3:16; 6:48; 8:12; 10:9-11; 14:6, 9; 15:4-7, 9 | Acts 4:12 | Romans 8:9-10, 34; 14:11 | 1 Corinthians 15:20, 51-58 | Philippians 2:9-11
Colossians 1:15-16 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Hebrews 13:5

► SUMMARY

Jesus is not only the most important person who ever lived, but He's also the most controversial.

Throughout history, people have hated Him, ignored Him, loved Him, and died for His sake. Two thousand years ago Jesus walked out of a carpenter's shop to begin His ministry, and since then an increasing number of people have followed Him. Who is this man called Jesus?

► SERMON POINTS

Jesus asked that same question of His disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matt. 16:13). The answers varied, from John the Baptist to one of the Old Testament prophets. But when He asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God" (vv. 15-16).

Today, Christians still believe this. We celebrate His birth on Christmas, worship and bow down to Him as our Lord, and pray in His name. To us, He is the most awesome person who ever walked on earth because He is God's Son.

Scripture refers to Jesus with many titles: Messiah, Son of God, Savior of the world, reigning Lord, ruling Judge, and returning King are just a few of them. Therefore, if Jesus is who Scripture says He is, we should respond in the following ways: Believe Him, follow Him, serve Him, proclaim Him, know Him through God's Word, and love Him. When we do this, it will impact every aspect of our lives.

What are Jesus' attributes?

- **Creator.** All things were created by Him, through Him, and for Him (Col. 1:15-16).
- **Omnipresent.** As our Savior, Jesus lives within our hearts and is with us wherever we go.
- **Omnipotent.** God the Son has all power to do whatever fits with His character and is in keeping with His Father's will.
- **Omniscient.** There are no secrets because our Lord knows all things with complete accuracy. Before we even utter a prayer, He knows what we will say.
- **Merciful.** We may freely call upon Christ to be merciful to us and need never worry that He will mistreat us.
- **Eternal.** Jesus was born of a woman, but this is not when He came into existence. He has always existed as eternal Son of God, one of the three members of the Trinity.
- **Sinless.** Because of His divine nature, Jesus was completely sinless.
- **Human.** Although He never ceased being God, Jesus was also fully human yet without sin. Because He lived as a man, He understands and can help us in our weakness.
- **Deity.** Jesus was also wholly divine with all the attributes and perfections of deity.
- **Virgin-born.** To become the holy, sinless God-man, Jesus had to be conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin. This was the only way He could represent mankind and be the sinless Lamb of God who was qualified to pay for our sins with His death on the cross.

Where is Jesus today?

- According to Scripture, He is seated at the Father's right hand, making intercession for us (Rom. 8:34).

- Jesus also abides within our hearts (vv. 9-10). At the moment of salvation, His Spirit came to indwell and seal us as His. Now we abide in Him and He in us.

What was Jesus' mission on earth?

- **To reveal the Father.** Jesus told His disciples, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Because He was God, everything Jesus did and said revealed the Father's nature and works.
- **To redeem mankind.** Jesus came to offer Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Now everyone who believes in Him, repents of sin, and confesses Jesus as Lord and Savior will be saved.
- **To assure us of life after death.** When Christ overcame death and rose from the grave, the issue of eternal life was settled once and for all. Without His resurrection, we'd have no hope of life after death and no confidence that all that Jesus said was true.
- **To promise us resurrection.** Because Jesus was raised up, we can be sure that we too will be resurrected when He returns (1 Cor. 15:20, 51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- **To give us abundant life** (John 10:10). All that we have in Christ is beyond our understanding. He's given us His amazing promises and is continually working in and for us.

Who did Jesus say He was?

- **The Good Shepherd** (v. 11); **The Bread of Life** (6:48)
- **The Vine** (15:5); **The Way, the Truth, and the Life** (14:6)
- **The Light of the World** (8:12); **The Door** (10:9)

What does Scripture say about Jesus' name?

- **His name is above every name.** "Every knee will bow" and "every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11). Even the world's tyrants who have rejected Jesus and want to control everything will one day fall to their knees and be forced to admit that He is the Lord.
- **His is the only name by which we are saved** (Acts 4:12).

There is salvation in no one else.

- **His name indicates His mission as deliverer.** An angel gave his name to Joseph: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).
- **Jesus is called the only begotten Son of God** (John 3:16). He came from the heavenly Father and is one with Him.

There is none like Jesus.

- He never wrote a book, but He is the subject of the greatest Book ever written.
- He never wrote a song, yet He is the subject of many.
- He never owned a home, but He has prepared one for us.
- He never traveled more than one hundred miles from home, yet the entire world is in His presence.
- He didn't have a medical license but is known as the Great Physician.
- He never marshaled an army, but He could bring down every kind of kingdom imaginable.
- Herod could not kill Him.
- Satan could not seduce Him.
- Death couldn't destroy Him.
- The tomb could not keep Him.

Jesus' names in Scripture describe His attributes and His mission.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ King of Kings | ■ Prince of Peace |
| ■ Son of God | ■ Wonderful Counselor |
| ■ Lamb of God | ■ Immanuel |
| ■ Rose of Sharon | ■ Word of God |
| ■ Lord of Lords | ■ Prophet |
| ■ Great High Priest | ■ Alpha and Omega |
| ■ Morning Star | |

► RESPONSE

- Why is Jesus worthy of your faith, devotion, and worship?
- How can you focus on Him this Christmas instead of being distracted by all the activities, preparations, and expectations of the season?

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