

Would the Real Jesus Please Stand Up (Luke 9:18-22; 28-36)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. There are many mistaken speculations concerning the identity of Christ.
2. A faith that is convinced of Jesus' true identity as the Christ will see us through our trials.
3. Jesus became a man that we might be reconciled to God.
4. Jesus was a suffering Savior and a victorious Savior.
5. Jesus has the authority to be Lord of our lives as well as Savior.

Question: Why do differences exist in the gospels? Were all the writers writing to the same audience, and were they all trying to communicate the same message?

B. In Luke 9:18-20, Jesus asked His disciples whom people believed Him to be.

1. Matthew 16:16-18 is a parallel passage and shows more than Luke.
2. Matthew 16:17-18 says, "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and ***upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***"
3. Each gospel was written to a difference audience, and each gospel writer was trying to communicate a different aspect of Christ.
 - a. Matthew wrote his gospel to the Jews.
 - 1) His objective was to show that Jesus was/is King of the Jews.
 - 2) Matthew was a disciple. Matthew was an eyewitness to much of those things about which he wrote.
 - 3) He wanted to show the Jews that Jesus, their King and Messiah, was about to begin a great work in their midst.
 - b. Mark wrote his gospel to the Romans.
 - 1) His gospel was the shortest because he was writing what we might call an executive summary.
 - 2) Mark was not a disciple. The source of his information was Peter.
 - 3) Acts 15:37-38 says, "And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. **But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.**"
 - 4) After Peter had failed by denying the Lord three times, who could have been better for Mark to find in Jerusalem. Peter took Mark under his wing and helped him during his early ministry.
 - c. Luke wrote his gospel to the Greeks.
 - 1) The Greeks believed that the body was evil (as opposed to the heart).

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- 2) Luke wrote to show them that Jesus was the Son of man. Jesus almost always referred to Himself as the Son of Man, which was a symbol of humiliation given that He was/is the Son of God. Notice John 3:14-18. When did Jesus stop talking and John start talking?
- 3) Luke showed Jesus to be a servant.
- 4) Luke was not a disciple. He was a medical doctor that traveled with the Apostle Paul. Much of what he learned about Jesus came from talking to people that had seen Him.
- 5) Luke was less interested in writing about the building of the church.
- d. John wrote his gospel to the Church.
 - 1) He wrote the final gospel, probably around 80-85AD.
 - 2) His gospel was the final Book of the Bible.
 - 3) His objective was to show that Jesus was/is the Son of God.
- C. In verses 19-20, notice how Jesus turned the key question to each of His disciples.
 1. Jesus began with a simple, non-invasive question. He is omniscient, so He already knew the answer.
 - a. Some thought He was John the Baptist.
 - b. Some thought He was Elijah.
 - c. Some thought He was a prophet.
 2. Jesus was testing the disciples so that they would consciously have to consider His deity.
 3. When Peter gave the correct response, Jesus told Him that the right answer had come from the Holy Spirit.
 - a. We must make the same examination of the Lord.
 - b. Salvation is seeing Jesus as the Son of God and entering into a trusting relationship with Him. That relationship is about Him, not each of us.
 - 1) Notice John 3:16 and the word "eis".
 - 2) Notice Acts 16:31 and the word "epi".
 - c. The whole world must make a similar choice to be saved, but they have help. Titus 2:11-13 says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Question: How would you respond to who is Jesus? How would you defend your position against some of His present-day critics?

- II. Who is Jesus according to some modernist teachings? These skeptics really deny the inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures (II Timothy 3:16).
 - A. The Islamic View

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1. They think that Jesus was a prophet, but they maintain that He was inferior to Mohammed. **Read the Book of Hebrews.**
 2. They think that He was just a normal man.
 3. They do not acknowledge His crucifixion and death on the cross.
- B. The Mormon View
1. They think that Jesus was created and that He became a god. **Read Genesis 1:26 and Ephesians 3:9.**
 2. They believe that Jesus and Satan are brothers. **Read Ezekiel 28:13-15.**
 3. They believe that Mary was married to God and to Joseph and that she had sexual relations with both. **Read John 4:24.**
 4. They believe that Jesus was married to Mary and Martha.
- C. The Jehovah Witness View
1. They reject the deity of Jesus. **Read Matthew 19:17.**
 2. They believe that He earned His salvation (eternal life) by being a good person. **Read John 8:58.**
 3. They have modified their Bible and changed the original Greek in John 1:1 ("the Word was a god") and John 8:58 (to show that Jesus was only claiming to be older than Abraham).
 4. They deny His equality with God. **Read Philippians 2:6-8.**

Question: What are some of the traditional Christian/biblical views of Jesus?

III. Who is Jesus, according to the Bible?

- A. He is the Christ.
1. Jesus' last name is not Christ. Christ is His title, and it means Messiah or the sent One.
 2. Luke 9:20 says, "He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God."
 3. Genesis 3:14-15 says, "And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.***"
- B. He is the Son of Man (a title of humiliation)
1. He willingly put on the form of a man so that He could redeem sinful humanity.
 2. Philippians 2:7-8 says, "But ***made*** himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a ***servant***, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

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- a. Made himself (*kenoo*) - to empty, make empty, of Christ, he laid aside equality with or the form of God. He voluntarily gave up the free use of His comparative attributes when He became a man (omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence).
 - b. Servant (*doulos*) - one who gives himself up to another's will, a slave, bondman, or man of servile condition, devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests. Matthew 20:26-27 says, "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (*doulos*):"
- C. He is the Suffering Servant
1. Luke 9:22 says, "Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."
 2. Isaiah 52:13 through Isaiah 53:12 clearly describe the Lord's sufferings on the cross. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
 3. **Remember what the critics once said about the Book of Isaiah and how the Dead Sea scrolls have proven them wrong.**
- D. He is the victorious Savior.
1. Matthew 16:21 says, "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."
 2. Luke 18:32-33 says, "For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again."
 3. I Corinthians 15:4 says, "And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."
- E. He is God's Son.
1. Luke 9:35 says, "And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."
 2. Matthew 3:17 says, "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Question: What are some of your thoughts about Jesus?

IV. What I believe and why I believe it.

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- A. I believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit form the three Persons of the Trinity.
1. I believe that they are equal (Philippians 2:6-8).
 - a. Each of the Three accepted worship (Acts 5:3-9, John 12:12-13).
 - b. Each of the Three performs certain tasks (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-10).
 - c. Each of the Three has the same comparative attributes (omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent). **In the kenosis, Jesus gave up the free use of His comparative attributes** (Philippians 2:6-8).
 2. I believe that they are separate, the opposite of modalism (Genesis 1:26 (Elohim) and John 16:7-10).
 3. I believe that all three Persons of the Trinity are eternal, without beginning and end, and that all three were at Creation (Genesis 1:26).
 4. I believe that Jesus created all things that were created (Ephesians 3:9).
- B. I believe that the Holy Bible that we possess today is as close to the literal, original Word of God as humans can get (II Timothy 3:16).
1. We do not have the original writings of Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the others. But we have a good understanding of the copying techniques that were used, and those techniques were greater than 99-percent accurate. We also know that there are no recorded cases of people tampering with God's Word through the years.
 2. I have confidence in the New Testament because Bible scholars currently possess over ten thousand early copies of manuscripts.
 3. The Dead Sea scrolls provide strong evidence for the Bible's reliability.
 4. I believe that the original Bible was Holy Spirit inspired (II Timothy 3:16).
 5. I believe that the original Bible is without errors (II Timothy 3:16).
 6. I believe that all parts of the Bible are equally inspired (II Timothy 3:16).
- C. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
1. I believe that He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:19-25, Luke 1:31-35).
 2. I believe that He is impeccable (unable to sin) (John 1:29, Exodus 12:5).
 3. I believe that He gave up the free use of His comparative attributes when He was incarnated (Philippians 2:6-8).
 4. I believe that He was without sin, the blameless Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).
 5. I believe that He was crucified for the sins of each person that comes to Him (John 3:16).
 6. I believe that He rose from the grave after three days (Matthew 28:6).
 7. I believe that all who are truly in Christ have eternal security (Ephesians 4:30, John 3:3).
- D. I believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity.
1. I believe that He was sent at Pentecost and that He indwells all believers (Acts 2:1-8).

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2. I believe that He guides believers and shows them what to do for the Lord (Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:28-30).
 3. I believe that He is building the New Testament Church (Matthew 16:16-18).
 4. I believe that He illuminates the Bible so that we can grow in our understanding.
 5. I believe that He comforts us when times are difficult (John 14:26).
- E. Many skeptics exist in this world. How do we know that we are correct? The answer is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
1. I Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
 2. I Corinthians 6:19 says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

V. Next week's lesson: "The High Cost of Following Christ" (Luke 9:23-26; 57-62).