

Lifeworld.org

“I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me,” John 8:18.

Jesus Teaches About Himself

Lesson Subject: To call forth supreme allegiance to Jesus on the basis of His claims about Himself.

L111. Date: October 1973. **Text:** Luke 4:16-24. **Topic:** Jesus: Teachings of.

Who is Jesus? No one need ponder that question for very long. There is abundant information available to provide an answer for each honest seeker.

(1) The Bible speaks of Him. Jesus challenged men: **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me,”** John 5:39. The Bible reports that He came into the world by a new and different way, Luke 1-2. It declares that He was an unusual person, Acts. 10:38. It declares Him to be the Savior of all who believe, I Timothy 4:10. It declares that He is the Son by whom God has spoken to men, Hebrews 1:1-3.

(2) The Holy Spirit anointed Him. That was the secret of His divine ministry; Acts 10:38. He received the anointing of the Spirit at His baptism by the hands of John the Baptist, (Matthew 3:16) who afterwards testified, **“ . . . he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God,”** John 1:33-34.

(3) Men have differed about Him. Some confess Him to be the Christ of God and devote their lives to serving Him. Others have rejected His claims and openly renounce Him. Today's study aims “to call forth supreme allegiance to Jesus upon the basis of His claims about Himself.” Will you study with an open heart and permit the Holy Spirit to teach you as “Jesus

Teaches About Himself”?

I. HIS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP

Jesus declared that He bore a unique relationship with God. He did not make such statements as a boast or as a threat, but as an affirmation of truth. Jesus distinctly stated that God was His Father. He called God “Father” in prayer, John 17:1; Luke 22:42. He taught His disciples to pray to God by saying, “Our Father,” Matthew 6:9. He spoke of God as “my Father” in so many instances that it is not wise to list them here. The people understood those expressions to mean that He bore a unique relationship with God. His opponents tried to kill Him because they considered He was making Himself equal with God, John 5:18.

Jesus testified that before He came into the world, He shared the glory of God the Father, John 17:5. He said that He came from the Father, John 8:42. He said that He was sent upon a mission to perform a ministry designated by the Father, John 17:18. He said that He would return to the Father when His earthly work was completed, John 13:3.

If those claims are false, Jesus was a mad man who should be forgotten. If those claims are true, Jesus is deity and should be worshiped as God. What is the testimony of the Holy Spirit in your heart concerning Him? Jesus distinctly claimed equality with God. Because of His relationship of equality with God, “. . . , **all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father,**” John 5:23. Why? The Father and the Son are one in essence. Jesus could truthfully say, “**I and the Father are one,**” John 10:30. He bore a relationship of equality with God.

Jesus claimed to have a unique relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. Matthew 3:16 tells how the Spirit came upon Him at His baptism. Matthew 4:1 indicates that from that point forward, He was “led of the Spirit” in the service of God. He accepted as valid and true the fact that He was anointed by and filled with God's Spirit.

The first visit which He made to His hometown (Nazareth) after His experience in baptism and in the wilderness temptation, He sought to communicate to the people what had happened. He stood up to read the Scripture in the synagogue service on the Sabbath day. Selecting a passage from the prophet Isaiah, He read, “**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach . . .**” Then He said, “**This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears,**” Luke 4:16-21. He was claiming to have the anointing and fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus declared that He bore a relationship of unity and intimacy with

God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. His was nothing short of a claim to deity. His claim was valid and true. Christians worship Him as God.

II. HIS DISTINCTIVE TITLES

Jesus called Himself a “herald of the King.” He set a course to visit the towns of Palestine, **“That I may preach there also,”** Mark 1:38. The term He used, translated “preach” in our language, means “a herald's proclamation of the message from a king.” Evidently, Jesus considered Himself God's messenger with a proclamation which men needed to hear.

His announcement is briefly stated in Mark 1:15, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”** Examine the proclamation. It indicates divine authorization. It announces the coming of God's kingdom. It was a gospel since the coming of the kingdom of God is “good news” to men. It included a demand for repentance and faith. Jesus' proclamation was a revelation of the gospel which has been preached through the world since.

Jesus called Himself a prophet. The term, “prophet,” comes from two words in the Greek language: **“pro”** means “before” and **“phami”** means “face.” A prophet is one who speaks “before the face.” He receives a message before the face of God and delivers it before the face of men. In that sense, Jesus knew Himself to be a prophet of God.

Jesus looked upon His rejection by people of His home town as evidence of His prophetic office, saying, **“... A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house,”** Matthew 13:57. He gave as the reason for His final journey to Jerusalem, **“... It cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem,”** Luke 13:33. Without doubt, Jesus considered Himself a prophet of God and wished that men might consider Him likewise.

Jesus called Himself a teacher. Many others called Him by that title, but toward the end of His ministry He began to use the term regarding Himself. In selecting a room for the passover observance, He identified Himself to the owner of the house as “The Master” (“The Teacher”), Matthew 22:18. It was well said, for so He was.

What is the duty of a teacher? It is to present to others the truth in such a way that they will learn. In that sense, as in all others, Jesus was a teacher par excellence. Is He your teacher? Do you learn of Him?

III. HIS UNIQUE MINISTRY

The Gospels recount the ministry of Jesus. The epistles interpret His

ministry. In many ways, His, ministry was very unique. That fact is manifest when one examines the figures of speech which Jesus used to describe His ministry. A few of them are listed below. How many more can you remember?

Physician — Jesus came to be the divine physician of sin-sick men. Some complained that He shared the fellowship of sinners. Jesus replied, **“They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick . . . for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance,”** Matthew 9:12-13. Such a spirit of service to the needy marked His whole ministry. **“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many,”** Mark 10:45. Have you received His healing?

Servant — Men commonly seek positions of authority. They like to be served. The whole spirit of Jesus, however, was marked by a willingness to serve. By such a spirit He elevated the most humble ministry into a glorious privilege, Matthew 20:20,28.

Seeker — Jesus came to seek lost men and women. Like the shepherd seeks a lost sheep, like a woman seeks a lost coin, like a father seeks a lost son, Jesus seeks poor lost sinners, Luke 15. His entire ministry has been summarized in the statement, **“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost,”** Luke 19:10” Have you been found by Him?

Completer — Jesus came to bring to completion all that God had done in the past but which had been only partially understood by men. He did not come to destroy the law — God's former revelation — but to bring out its spiritual content and thus reveal its meaning and application, Matthew 5:17.

Liberator — Jesus looked upon mankind as being in bondage to the powers of sin. The bondage was of such a serious nature that it was impossible for a person to free himself. Redemption could come only through the shedding of blood. Jesus came that He might give His life a ransom payment to purchase one out of slavery and into freedom — for mankind, Mark 10:45. Have you been set free? **“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed,”** John 8:32, 36.

Saviour — “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them . . .,” Luke 9:56. His very name, Jesus, means Saviour. He was born with the prediction, “. . . he shall save his people from their sins,” Matthew 1:21. He ascended back to heaven, leaving upon earth the affirmation, **“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins,”**

Acts 5:31. Is He your personal Saviour?

Jesus declared Himself to be the divine Physician who heals, the divine Servant who ministers, the divine Seeker who finds, the divine Fulfiller who clarifies meaning, the divine Liberator who redeems, and the divine Saviour who makes safe all who come to God by Him. What a Christ!

IV. HIS UNIQUE CLAIMS

Obedience — Jesus called for implicit obedience to His teachings. He spoke words which were “spirit and life” and which should be obeyed by men, John 6:63. Only those who obey His words will fare well in the day of judgment, John 12:48. He who hears and obeys is like the wise man who built his house upon a solid rock foundation; it was able to stand the storm. He who hears and does not obey the words of Jesus is like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand and with no foundation; it fell in the day of testing, Matthew 7:24-27. The people who heard Jesus teach in that manner “**were astonished at his doctrine; for he taught them as one having authority,**” Matthew 7:28.29. Do you obey His words? You will face them again in the day of judgment.

Loyalty — Jesus called for complete loyalty to Himself. Any person who is a disciple of Jesus must give supreme allegiance to Him. Anyone who does not love Jesus more than he loves his father, mother, wife, children, brethren, sisters, or even his own life, cannot be Jesus' disciple. Read Luke 14:26-27 and Matthew 10:37-39, and ask yourself, “Am I a disciple of Jesus?”

Judgment — Jesus called Himself the agent of God's judgment. Men will be judged upon the basis of their attitude toward Him. The result was that His coming did not bring peace and unity, but division among men. Because of Him, households divide, and a fire is kindled in the earth, Luke 12:49-53. The Father surrendered His exercise of judgment to the Son so that all men would honor the Son as they honor the Father, John 5:22-23. Man will not only be judged by Him, they will be judged by the standards of the words which He spoke while in the world, John 12:48. His judgment is always righteous, but it is also just, John 5:30; 8:16.

Deity — Jesus considered Himself the touchstone of God. A man's response to Jesus determines his eternal destiny. To confess or to deny Him determines acceptance or rejection before the Father, Luke 12:8-9. Treatment accorded Jesus is treatment accorded God. He is God in human flesh.

Be sure that you know Jesus Christ in truth. So much is at stake in both

time and eternity. Jesus is the Saviour, the only Saviour. He will make you safe, if you trust Him.

V. HIS DISTINCT TITLE

Of the many titles which were used of Jesus, which did He prefer? Surprisingly, He called Himself by a title which no others applied to Him. Jesus' personal and deliberately chosen title for Himself was "Son of Man." The term occurs eighty-two times in the New Testament, eighty-one times being in the Gospels. Eighty times it is used by Jesus, referring to Himself. No one ever addressed Jesus by that title. It was His own unique title. He gave it to Himself,

The term, "Son of Man," had two meanings to the Jews of New Testament times. It was used in the book of Daniel to mean a mortal man. It was used in the apocryphal book of Enoch to refer to a divine, pre-existent super-human person who would come from God to overthrow His enemies. Both of those meanings properly refer to Jesus. He was in the flesh as a mortal man, but at the same time He was the Son of God.

It is significant that Jesus chose the term, "Son of Man," rather than the more common Jewish term, "Son of Abraham." The choice was deliberate. Though He was born into the nation which descended from Abraham, Jesus had a common affinity with the whole human race. He is the Saviour of all men, not just the Messiah of the Jews.

In the mind of His peers, Jesus used the term to refer to Himself as a man who was at the same time the Messiah of God. The term, "Son of Man," made Jesus the Suffering Servant who must accept the cross and the Messianic King who must enter His glory. That He did. Praise God!

Jesus spoke a great deal about Himself. He announced His equality with God. He declared Himself to be a preacher, a teacher, and a prophet. He defined His ministry as healing, seeking, serving, fulfilling, liberating, and saving guilty sinners. He demanded obedience to His words and loyalty to His person, declaring that as men received or rejected Him they were receiving or rejecting God Himself.

This is a brief survey of what Jesus said about Himself. What do you say concerning Him? Can you say, "He is my Saviour?" Can you say, "He is my Lord?" Can you say, "He is the sovereign of my life and my sole hope for eternal safety?" May God grant that you can say all that about Jesus. In such a relationship to Jesus is abundant life to be found for time and for eternity.

Questions

1. Who is Jesus?
2. What does John 5:39 mean to you?
3. What is Jesus' relationship to the Father?
4. What is Jesus' relationship to the Holy Spirit?
5. In what sense was Jesus a prophet?
6. Why did He demand implicit obedience to His words?
7. What is His unique ministry?
8. What did He mean in calling Himself the “Son of Man?”
9. How can a person know Jesus Christ personally?
10. How will this study help you this week?