

## Introducing Jesus – Who Jesus is...

### Essential Truth #1: Jesus is fully God

#### Jesus is fully God

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, *Mighty God*, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*....No one has ever seen God; *the only God, who is at the Father's side*, he has made him known. (*John 1:1, 18*)

- Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. (*Psalms 102:25-27*)

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. (*Hebrews 1:8-12*)

- And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (*Joel 2:32*)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (*Romans 10:9-13*)

### Essential Truth #2: Jesus is fully Man

#### Jesus is fully Human

- And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (*John 1:14*)

Pastor and theologian John Piper succinctly summarizes the humanity of Jesus: He was born (*Luke 2:7*). He grew (*Luke 2:40, 52*). He grew tired (*John 4:6*) and got thirsty (*John 19:28*) and hungry (*Matthew 4:2*). He became physically weak (*Matthew 4:11; Luke 23:26*). He died (*Luke 23:46*). And he had a real human body after his resurrection (*Luke 24:39; John 20:20, 27*). He had a human heart and emotions (*Matthew 8:10; 26:38; John 11:33-35; 12:27; John 13:21; Hebrews 5:7*). He had a human mind (*Luke 2:52*) and limitation of thoughts (*Mark 13:32*), despite possessing the infinite knowledge of God (*John 21:7*). He had a human will that He submitted to the Father's will (*John 6:38; Matthew 26:39*).

Fully human, Jesus also faced every temptation that man faces (*Hebrews 4:15*). However, whereas every other person sins (*James 1:14-15*), Jesus denied every temptation perfectly (*1 Peter 2:22*)

## Introducing Jesus – What Jesus Did...

### Jesus Came to Preach the Coming Kingdom of God

*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:16-21)*

What stands out to you in this passage?

*From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”...And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (Matthew 4:17; 23)*

- *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (Matthew 9:35)*
- *And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:60)*
- *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)*

### Jesus Came, Revealing His Identity

#### Jesus was identified as the Son of God

- Jesus’ disciples faithfully identified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16; John 1:49)
- Jesus’ friends declared belief that Jesus is the Son of God (John 11:27)
- Demons fearfully identified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 8:28-30)
- Jesus’ persecutors identified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 27:54)
- The angels proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of God (Luke 1:35)
- Satan tested Jesus as the Son of God (Luke 4:1-13)
- Jesus affirmed that He is the Son of God (Luke 22:70; John 1:51)
- God the Father unquestionably identified Jesus as His Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5)

#### He identified Himself as equal to God

A major theme of Jesus’ message was His complete unity and co-identity with God (John 10:22, 30; 17:11, 21). Several times, He referred to Himself in terms of the “divine ‘I am.’” Five times He did so directly (John 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 18:5), and seven times metaphorically, saying:

- I am the bread of life (John 6:35, 48, 51)
- I am the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5)
- I am the door of the sheep (John 10:7, 9)
- I am the good shepherd (John 10:11, 14)
- I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
- I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
- I am the true vine (John 15:1)

These declarations are a clear, intentional reference to God’s self-identification to Moses (Exodus 3:14). To equate Himself with God was to declare Himself to be God. This message was blasphemy to the religious leaders and politically upheaving for the civic authorities. Yet, Jesus never backed down from this assertion, and with His resurrection three days after His death and burial, He proved Himself to be true.

### He identified Himself as the promised Messiah of the Jews

Beginning with His announcement of His public ministry (Luke 4:16-21), Jesus regularly indicated to His audience that He was the fulfillment of the Messiah promised to save the Jewish people:

- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17).
- “But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled” (Matt. 26:56).
- “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44).
- “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life” (John 5:39-40).
- “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” (John 5:46-47).

### He was identified as the Savior of the World

Throughout His life, Jesus was identified as the one person appointed to save the world:

- The angel revealed it to the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:21)
- The angels declared it to the shepherds at Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:11)
- The Samaritan men professed it after spending time with Him (John 4:42)
- In the twilight of his life, the Apostle John testified to it (1 John 4:14)
- His cousin, John the Baptist, introduced Jesus as Savior (John 1:29)
- Jesus repeatedly explained His purpose to save the world (e.g., John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10)

### He identified Himself as the Sovereign of the Kingdom of God

In Jesus’ final week, He arrived into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy of the promised King’s entry (John 12:15). When questioned before the Roman leader Pontius Pilate, Jesus affirmed His Kingship:

*Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:37)*