SESSION 5:
Who is Jesus?
PART 2
Question: HOW ARE WE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF A SELF-CENTERED, BROKEN WORLD?

Philippians 2:1–4  A New Orientation: ____________________________

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility CONSIDER OTHERS BETTER THAN YOURSELVES. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:5–11  A Compelling Vision: ____________________________

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:12–16  A Targeted Training Focus: ____________________________

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life—

Next Steps

• Watch Week 5 video: click on BE ONE Essentials at bethanychurch.com  
• Complete the homework: Session 5 Sermon Notes & Lesson Handout  
• Discuss in a Connect Group or one-on-one  
• Come to church next Sunday for Session 6
Who is Jesus? This question stands at the heart of our faith. It is in fact the central truth that holds together the entire story of the Bible. In our last session, we discussed the person of Jesus, who is both fully God and fully Man. He is fully divine and fully human. In this session, then, we address the work of Jesus. As we study the scriptures, two major themes emerge regarding the role that Jesus plays in God’s great, eternal plan. He is both Lord and Savior.

1. Jesus is Lord

Creator

Since Jesus is God, He is Lord of all that is. He participated fully in the creation of the universe. The apostle John makes this point explicitly:

“He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” (John 1:2-3)

The apostle Paul makes the same point in his letter to the Colossians:

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:15-17)

In fact, we can now see why the creation story in Genesis describes God “speaking” the world into existence. Remember how the story begins:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1-3)

When John retells the creation story in his gospel, he says:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

The “words” used in Genesis are now personified, as the “Word” in the gospel of John. John is creatively telling us that Jesus was there, in the Genesis account, right at the beginning, when the world came into being.
Jesus is Lord of all creation, then, first because He is the Creator. But He was not just there at beginning. He did not create the universe only to abandon it. He remains actively engaged in His creation as its sovereign King. The Bible often uses the language of kings and kingdoms to describe the authority and power that Jesus maintains over His creation, and this theme develops over time.

• Promised Messiah

When God first appointed David as King over His people, He made this promise:

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” (2 Samuel 7:16)

God would continue to reiterate this promise through His prophets down through the ages, even when His people rebelled and were losing hope regarding their future. He says, for example, through the prophet Isaiah:

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7)

This promised king became known as the “Messiah”, which, in the Hebrew language, indicates the “anointed one”. When Jesus is born, then, the New Testament identifies Him as this Messiah. Note, for example, the promise that the angel gives to Mary:

“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:31-33)

In the Greek language, the term, “Christ”, also means “anointed one”, and this term is immediately applied to Jesus. When Andrew first meets Jesus, he quickly finds his brother Simon Peter, and he announces:

“We have found the Messiah (that is, the Christ).” (John 1:41)

• Coming King

After Jesus is resurrected and He ascends to be with the Father, the New Testament writers remind His followers that one day Jesus would return to reveal Himself fully as the Lord and King of all creation. The Apostle Paul writes:

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)
And, in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes:

“With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.” (Ephesians 1:8-10)

As we look forward to this end, when all things are unified under Christ, He will be clearly revealed as Lord of All. In the last book of the Bible, John receives this revelation:

“The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15)

In this passage, we see that all “kingdoms”, meaning all peoples and all cultures, must one day acknowledge that Jesus is the eternal King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2. Savior

Promised in the Old Testament

• The Problem of Sin

As Lord of all creation, Jesus is also its Savior. God's good work of creation is quickly compromised when the first human couple disobey His commands. The consequences for this disobedience are severe and far reaching. We still see them today: broken relationships, broken bodies, broken lives and broken societies. The apostle Paul summarizes the problem in just a few words: “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

Despite this death sentence, however, God will not abandon His creation. Throughout the long story of the Bible, He promises to save His people from their own self-inflicted judgment, and, over time, it becomes clear that this salvation will come through a Person. We get a hint of this truth right at the very beginning.

You may recall that, in the Genesis story, the enemy uses the serpent to tempt the first humans into sin. God therefore condemns the serpent, and, at the same time, He condemns the enemy who speaks through this serpent. He says:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Someday, the “offspring” of this woman, a human being who will emerge from her line, will crush the head of the enemy and destroy his work.

• A Promised Savior

As the story of God unfolds, person after person is selected to carry this promise forward. God chooses Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and many others after them, as signs to all the nations the He has not given up on His creation. Eventually, God's language gets more explicit about the future coming of a savior. For example, the prophet Isaiah says:

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

While, on one level, this promise applied to the immediate problem that Isaiah and fellow Israelites face, on another level, the promise had its long-term fulfillment in Jesus. In fact, Matthew would later this passage explicitly, when he describes the angel’s conversation with Joseph:

“[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet....” (Matthew 1:21-22)
Revealed in the New Testament

• Meaning of the Name

The name, “Jesus,” simply means “the LORD saves.” We often see this repeated in the Gospels. Luke, for example, clearly states that Jesus came “to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) And John says:

“God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)

And Jesus Himself says,

“I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.” (John 12:47)

In fact, the apostle Peter, “filled with the Holy Spirit”, says:

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

• Believing in the Name

It is significant, therefore, that we are frequently told in scripture that it is by believing in the “name of Jesus” that we can be saved. For example, the people of Samaria make this comment to the woman who has told them about Jesus:

“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.” (John 4:42)

When the Philippian Jailer asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?”, they replied:

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” (Acts 16:30-31)

• Both Lord and Savior

Also in the New Testament, we begin to see these two aspects of the work of Jesus combined. The Lord and Savior are revealed as one and the same person. So, for example, Luke records the words of the angel to the shepherds:

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

When challenged by the religious leaders of their day after the resurrection of Jesus, Peter and the apostles declare:

“God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.” (Acts 5:31)

Later, in one of his letters, Peter several times uses the combined phrase, “Lord and Savior,” to refer to Jesus. So, for example, he says:

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

This is a fitting conclusion to our reflection on the work of Jesus. When we consider all He has done for us, what else can we do but praise Him, giving Him glory both now and forever.

Conclusion

So now we have a fuller answer to our question. If someone asks us, “Who Is Jesus,” we can confidently say that Jesus is God and Man, Lord and Savior. In our next lesson, “Why the Cross?”, we will examine how Jesus saves the world, but until then, may God reward you and bless you as you continue your spiritual journey.
Discussion Questions

After completing Session 5, Who is Jesus, Part 2, you can use the following questions to encourage discussion within your group.

Who is Jesus?
Jesus is God and Man, Lord and Savior.

Opening
How do you think most people view the role that Jesus plays in human history?

Going Deeper

1. Jesus Is Lord

   Creator
   ✓ What does it mean to say that since Jesus is God, He is Lord of all that is?
   ✓ What is the significance to Jesus’ participating in the creation of the world (see Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-4)?

   King
   ✓ Why do you believe the future apostle Andrew was excited to first meet Jesus (see John 1:41)?
   ✓ What is your visceral reaction to the proclamation that one day all peoples and cultures must acknowledge that Jesus is the eternal King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

2. Jesus Is Savior

   Promised in the Old Testament
   ✓ How have you personally experienced the far-reaching consequences of the first human couple’s disobedience to the commands of God (i.e. broken relationships, broken bodies, broken lives, broken societies)?
   ✓ Despite God declaring, “the wages of sin is death,” He will not abandon His creation. Instead, God sent his son Jesus to pay the penalty for man’s sins. What does God’s sending His Son say of his attitude towards humankind?

   Revealed in the New Testament
   ✓ The Apostle Paul proclaims that “salvation is found in no one else” but in Jesus and His death, burial and resurrection. Given the spiritual landscape of our culture, what are some ways that people receive this message?
   ✓ For many, the simplicity of salvation, believing in the “name of Jesus,” is a stumbling block to their accepting Him as Savior. What challenges do you face in regards to your believing in the name of Jesus?
   ✓ What challenges do you see you might face when sharing this message with others?

Next Steps
Spend time this week in prayer, reflecting on the work of Jesus. What area or areas of your life must you turn over to Him as Lord of your life? In what area or areas of your life would you like to further experience His true saving power? What steps will you take next in order to experience this saving power more fully?
Who Is Jesus? Review Quiz

After you complete Session 4, Who Is Jesus? Part 1, and Session 5, Who Is Jesus? Part 2, you can take this Quiz to review what you have learned. You can take the quiz as many times as you desire. This is one of the Quizzes required in order to earn a Bethany Essentials Certificate.

1. Which of the following statements best describes the Person of Jesus?
   A. Jesus is God appearing as Man
   B. Jesus is Man with some divine qualities.
   C. Jesus is a Man who becomes God.
   D. Jesus is both God and Man.

2. Which of the following statements best describes Jesus’ own claims regarding His divine nature?
   A. Jesus never makes any claims about being God.
   B. Jesus claims to be the “I AM” that was before Abraham.
   C. Jesus denies explicitly that He is God.
   D. None of the above.

3. According to various New Testament writers, what was Jesus’ role in creation?
   A. Jesus was present from the beginning and was active in creation.
   B. Jesus is “the firstborn over all creation.”
   C. Jesus sustains “all things by his powerful word”.
   D. All of the above.

4. Which of the following statements best describes what various New Testament writers say about the humanity of Jesus?
   A. Jesus is fully human.
   B. Jesus merely appears in human form.
   C. Jesus was human at one time, but is no longer human.
   D. Jesus was super-human.

5. Did Jesus truly experience human pain, suffering and sadness?
   A. Jesus only appears to suffer.
   B. Jesus never experienced any real pain.
   C. Jesus fully experienced human pain and suffering.
   D. The Bible is not really clear on this issue.

6. What is the one main difference between the humanity of Jesus and our humanity?
   A. Jesus alone lived a perfect, holy and righteous life.
   B. Jesus possessed flesh that would never die.
   C. Jesus had a spirit that could not be tempted.
   D. There really is no difference between the humanity of Jesus and our humanity.

7. Which of the following statements best describes what we mean when we say that Jesus is the promised “Messiah”?
   A. Jesus is God incarnate.
   B. Jesus has come spiritually.
   C. Jesus is the promised King who descends from David.
   D. None of the above.

8. Which of the following statements best describe what will happen when Jesus returns?
   A. Every knee will bow and confess Jesus as Lord.
   B. God will bring all things on heaven and earth into unity.
   C. The kingdoms of this world will become His kingdom.
   D. All of the above.

9. Which of the following statements best describes how God prepared His people for a Savior?
   A. God never really said anything about a savior until Jesus appears.
   B. God first began to speak of a Savior in the New Testament.
   C. The prophet Jeremiah is really the only prophet to speak of a future savior.
   D. There are various references to a coming savior in the Old Testament, beginning in the book of Genesis.

10. The name, “Jesus”, itself means:
    A. The Powerful One
    B. The LORD saves
    C. The Royal King
    D. The Coming King

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