

I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST

MATTHEW 16:13-16 • TV246B

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by
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Matthew 16:13-16

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

I am bringing today what I believe to be is a most important message. This message is a message to you from the Word of God; yet it is a message out of my own heart and experience.

I am using the first person for a title. I am saying, “**I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST.**” I personally, individually believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. I believe this and I don’t just profess it or just preach it; I believe it.

In **Matthew Chapter 16:13**, the Scripture says; “*And when Jesus of Nazareth came into the coast of Caesarea, Philippi, he asked his disciples saying unto them; whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*” (What are the people saying, the religious leaders and others)? “*Whom do they say that I, the Son of man am?*”

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The disciples replied; *“Well, some of the people out there say that you are John the Baptist who has come back from the dead and some say that you are Elijah.”* Some of the Jews thought that Elijah would make another appearance in the last days.

“Some say that you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to His disciples; *“But whom say ye that I the Son of man am?”* Peter replied; *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

Outwardly, to the human eye Jesus of Nazareth appeared to be an ordinary man, an ordinary person. In fact, they called Him; *“The Nazarene, the Carpenter, the winebibber, and a gluttonous man.”* They called Him; *“The friend of sinners.”*

Isaiah said this in prophecy about the coming Redeemer; *“He hath no form, no comeliness. There is no beauty about Him that we should desire Him. He is a man of sorrows acquainted with grief. We hid as it were our faces from Him. He is despised and rejected of men.”* Everybody who was anybody turned thumbs-down on this man Jesus of Nazareth.

He was born into a poor and unknown family. *“There was no room for them in the inn.”* Mary was expecting a child, and when they went to their home city to be taxed, there was no place for them to spend the night and no place for her to have her baby. She went down to a stable.

If you would have had a birth certificate, it would have said that this man Jesus of Nazareth was born in a stable and laid in a manger. This is a very humble beginning. That certainly didn't make Him somebody of importance.

When He was a little baby, they carried Him into Egypt. He had to flee His own nation to escape the wrath of Herod who had decreed that every Jewish child under a certain age was to be killed in order to destroy this supposed Messiah or King of the Jews.

He grew up in a little, out of the way, small town called Nazareth. Even one of His disciples when he was told that Jesus came from Nazareth, said; *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”*

He began His ministry, having worked as a carpenter, (no telling how many years), in this little town of Nazareth. He began His ministry attended by a few, poor, uneducated, unlearned fishermen, and other men.

He began His ministry, having worked as a carpenter, (no telling how many years), in this little town of Nazareth. He began His ministry attended by a few, poor, uneducated, unlearned fishermen (and a few other men).

His teachings and doctrines about God, sin, salvation, and eternal life, were rejected. He offended people by what He taught. He didn't offend them too much when He healed the sick or made the blind to see, the lame to walk or the dead to live. That didn't bother them too much. In fact, when He fed the hungry, they were quite grateful.

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It was what He said that offended people. There was always a division because of His doctrine. There was always a division because of what He preached, His teachings about God, sin, and salvation, were rejected and denied by all the religious leaders.

When some of the people would listen to what He was preaching, the religious leaders would say; “Well, none of us believe on Him; you haven’t seen any of the Pharisees believe on Him have you? You are not to listen to Him. He has never learned; He knows nothing. He has cast out devils by the power of the devil.”

Finally, even popular opinion turned against Him, (this man Jesus of Nazareth). Finally, popular opinion turned against Him and the very people who had cried “*Hosanna, to the Son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*” Those same people on that Friday, called; “*Crucify Him, crucify Him; we will not have this man to reign over us.*”

So; they crucified Jesus of Nazareth on a Roman cross and He died. They buried Him in a borrowed tomb. He never owned a piece of land or owned a home. He never traveled over 90 miles from the place that He was born.

They buried Him in a borrowed tomb. The religious world, the leaders thought that they were through with this man called; “*Jesus of Nazareth.*”

I will tell you this; if He had been an ordinary man, they would have been through with Him because He would be in the grave. His bones would still be there. However, He is no ordinary man. The Father raised Him from the dead and He appeared to His disciples and others, one time above 500 brethren at once.

God the Father exalted Him to His right hand and said unto Him; “*You sit here until I make your enemies your footstool.*” Peter said on Pentecost; “*This same Jesus whom you crucified, God hath made Lord and Christ.*”

What do you think of Jesus of Nazareth? What do you really think? Tell me what you think, who is He? Who is Jesus of Nazareth? What is your own, personal, individual opinion? Who is He; who is this man called Jesus Christ?

What did He do? He was born and lived 33 years and died. What did He do? Let me ask you this; Why did He do what He did? Do you know why? Why did God send His Son into the world? Why didn’t He just appear on the scene like Melchisedek?

You know; Melchisedek was the high priest of the most High God. Abraham was coming back from the slaughter of the kings and Melchisedek met him, probably on the road. He was the king of Salem, “*Without beginning of days or end of days.*”

He was without heritage or parents, neither having mother or father. He was the high priest of the most High God, the king of peace. He gave to Abraham the bread and the wine. Why didn’t Jesus

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Christ the Son of God just come down here and meet us on the road like Melchisedek of old, get it over with, and go back to glory?

Why did He go through all of this agony and suffering for 33 years; do you know? Where is He now? Does He have any relationship with us now? Are we dependent upon Him in anyway now?

Let me tell you from the Scriptures what I believe about Jesus of Nazareth. Will you listen? I'm not a novice; I have preached for a little while. I have preached for 35 years and pastored the same church for about 34 years. I want to tell you what I believe about Jesus of Nazareth:

First of all: I want you to grab a hold of your seat. I believe that this man called Jesus of Nazareth is very God of very God. I believe that He is God. Yes, He is a man, every bit a man. He is "*Bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.*" He is the God-man (if you could say it in one word it would be better); He is God and He never ceased to be God.

He knew men's thoughts. Every attribute of God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. Justice, righteousness, love, and holiness, are all the attributes of Jesus Christ.

Yet, He was a man. He was limited to a place. He was born of a woman and was subject to His parents. He was able to feel cold and heat, thirst and hunger. "*He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.*"

He was able to bleed and die. He was able to sweat and go through agony. "*He was a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.*" He is the God-man. He is two natures in one. He is every bit God, yet man.

This is what the Old Testament prophecies taught. In **Isaiah 7:14**, the Scripture says; "*Behold; the Lord Himself will give you a sign. A virgin shall be with child and thou shall call His name Immanuel, (God with us).*"

This child of the virgin is "*God with us.*" The Scripture says; "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God: And all things were made by Him and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*"

My friends; Jesus of Nazareth is God Almighty. I didn't say that He was an ambassador from heaven or a messenger of God or a Son of God; I am saying that He is God. The Lord our God is one God, yet three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "*There are three that bear record of heaven, the Father, the Spirit, and the Word.*"

In **Isaiah 9:6**, it says; "*A child is born; unto us a Son is given.*" This child which is born is a body that never walked on this earth before. This Jesus of Nazareth had a body, which was born of Mary. His earthly body had never been seen before on this earth.

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“But unto us a Son is given,” not born, but given. He already dwelt in heaven and He came down to earth and inhabited the body of which He said, *“A body hast Thou prepared Me. Unto us a child is born; a Son is given and His name, (the name of this child) shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.”*

This is what the Bible says. The New Testament writer said this; *“Unto the Son the Father said, thy throne O God is forever.”* When Christ appeared to Thomas; he fell on his face and said, *“My Lord and My God.”* When He was crucified, the Centurion stood back and said; *“Surely this man was the Son of God.”*

So, I believe emphatically, from my heart, that Jesus is God Almighty in human flesh. He was here on this earth. God walked among us. He said to the disciples; *“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; I and My Father are one.”*

The Scripture says, *“He is, the express image (the exact image) his person, (of God the Father). No man knoweth the Father but the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal Him.”*

What else do you believe about this man Jesus Christ?

Secondly: I believe that He is the Christ. I wish people today knew something about Jesus of Nazareth other than a word to curse by. They usually say, “Christ Almighty or Jesus Christ.” Do you know what the word “*Christ*” is saying? He is Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.

The woman at Samaria said, *“Is not this the Christ?”* When they went out to hear John the Baptist they asked Him; *“Are you the Christ?”* Our Lord asked the Pharisees; *“What think ye of the Christ?”* They said, *“The Christ will be the son of David.”* The word “Christ” is an office. Jesus is His name and Christ is His office.

You see, throughout the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi, there is promise after promise and prophecy after prophecy of God’s Messiah, of God’s Deliverer and of God’s Redeemer who would come to earth to redeem a people.

When God said to Adam, *“The seed of woman will bruise the serpent’s head,”* when He said to Abraham, *“I will raise up from you a seed; unto Him shall the gathering of the people be;”* He is called the Son of David. He said, *“Your throne will be forever. Your Son will sit on your throne forever.”*

This is not about Solomon; He said that *“He would be a prophet like Moses and a priest like Melchisedek.”* All of that is wrapped up in one word, the “Christ.” He is the Christ.

You see; that is what they rejected; that is what they denied. That is what these religious people rebelled against during our Lord’s ministry. He said He was the Christ. In **Acts 10:43**, it says; *“To Him give all the prophets witness.”*

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This is what Peter is declaring in our text when our Lord said; *“Well, whom do you say that I am?”* Peter said, *“You are the Christ.”* Peter was saying that the whole Old Testament Scriptures, all 39 books with hundreds of chapters and promises, prophecies, patterns, pictures, and types were fulfilled in this one man standing in front of him. *“You are the Christ; you are the Messiah.”*

There is only one Christ, the Messiah. That is what he is saying, *“You are the Christ the Son of God.”* Our Lord said this, *“If you believe not that I am He, (that I am He, the Christ); you will die in your sins.”*

This is where this whole battle is fought, that is the battleground. Who is Jesus Christ? If Jesus Christ is not who He says He is, then He is an impostor and not only He is a liar, but He is also a vain man whose soul is in hell and his body is in the grave.

He said, *“I am the Christ.”* The woman at the well says, *“When the Christ comes He will tell us all things.”* He looked at her and said, *“I that speak to thee am He; I am the Christ.”* I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.

Not only that, but I believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the second Adam. You probably are wondering where I am going now and what I am talking about. I wish more folks had more understanding of the Bible and less understanding of tradition, custom, and Whoop-Dee-Doo religion.

I wish they had some foundation in the Word. If you had some foundation in the Word you would know what I mean when I say that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the second Adam. Listen to **1 Corinthians 15**: *“The first man Adam, (which is the first Adam that lived in the Garden of Eden), Adam, (red earth), the first man Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam (the second Adam) was made a quickening Spirit.”*

“The first Adam, in 1 Corinthians 15:45, is of the earth, earthy.” God took him out of the earth. *“The second Adam is the Lord from heaven.”* The Scripture says that *“In Adam all die; so in Christ, the second Adam, shall we all be made alive.”*

My friends; clearly and plainly, this is teaching federal headship and representation. I know a lot of preachers get all uptight when you talk about federal headship and representation. A lot of Bible teachers and others get upset.

I will tell you this; it is the Word of God. The whole **5th chapter of Romans** teaches federal headship and representation. It says, *“By one man sin entered this world and death by sin so death passed upon all men.”* This is representation. *“As in Adam all die.”*

“By the offence of one judgment came upon all men. As in Adam all die.” By one man’s transgression judgment and condemnation passed upon all men. *“By the disobedience of one we were all made sinners.”* This is representation and federal headship.

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That is the first Adam; by man came death. *“The first Adam of the earth is earthy. As we have borne the image of the first Adam;”* (I am thanking God that it doesn’t end there). There is a second Adam; there is a new race, a new Covenant, and a new Kingdom. That is the second Adam and He is the head of it.

The first Adam is the head, the beginning of the whole human race. We all trace our roots back to our daddy, Adam, back to our father Adam. Thank God there is a new Kingdom and a new race by God’s Covenant of Mercy in Christ Jesus.

The Scripture says this; *“By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, even so, by the obedience of one, (Christ) shall many be made righteous.”* It says here, *“By one man’s offence, judgment came upon all, so the free gift came by one man.”*

“As in Adam we die; in Christ we are made alive.” If we deny our fall in Adam we must reject our restoration in Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ is the second Adam. He is that glorious man from heaven. *“By man came death; by man came the resurrection.”* By man came judgment, sin, and condemnation by a perfect man.

In **1 Timothy**, the Scripture says; *“There is one God and one Mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus.”* It did not say, “God and man;” it said *“God and men.”*

Did you know that there is a man in heaven, the God-man (that I have been talking about all along) is at the right hand of the Father? He is our Advocate, our Intercessor and Mediator.

Listen to me; what do I believe about Jesus Christ? I believe that He holds the eternal destiny and the fate of all men in His own hands; that is what I believe. He is no weakling. The Scripture says in **John Chapter 3:35**; *“The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hands.”*

In **John 17:2**, our Lord was praying and said; *“Thou hast given me power over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou has given me.”* He said to His disciples; *“All authority in heaven and earth is given unto me; go ye and preach the Gospel.”*

In **John 5:21** He said; *“The Son quickeneth (maketh alive) whom He will. No man knoweth the Father but the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.”*

My friend; the great question is not what you will do with Jesus. There’s not a thing you can do with Jesus. The question is; what will Christ do with me? Somehow, we have this thing turned around. I don’t know who did it or when it happened. Somewhere it got turned around down the line.

Our Lord stood before Pilate which was, perhaps, His weakest moment, (if you can say that God had a weak moment). He was a man; his hands were tied and His back was lacerated. He was heading for a cross.

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Pilate asked Him a question and the Lord didn't answer Him. Pilate said, "*Answerest not thou me? Don't you know that I have the power to crucify you or to let you go?*" Our Lord did answer him then, He said; "*You can have no power over me at all except it were given you from my Father.*" Now, you think about that.

I know that there is a lot of pleading going on today by saying; "What will you do with Jesus?" Let me tell you something; when you were born into this old wicked world, Christ was enthroned at the right hand of God." He was "*exalted and given a name above every name.*"

That is where He will be when you are dead and in hell. You are not going to do one thing with Jesus Christ. You are not going to add to His glory; He is independent of His creatures. We need Him; He doesn't need us. He said, "*I didn't come to be ministered unto; I came to minister. I gave my life a ransom for many.*"

The fate and destiny of every human being is in the hands of Christ to do with what He will. God turned the world over to Christ. This is true! The effect that will have upon men with some wisdom and judgment will be like the thief on the cross.

He looked over at the Saviour and said; "*This man has done nothing amiss. I am getting what I deserve. Lord; you are not going to stay dead; you are coming into a Kingdom. Lord, would you remember me?*"

He wasn't debating about what He was going to do with Jesus. He wasn't debating whether he was going to let God into his heart or not. He wasn't debating whether he was going to let God's wonderful plan be worked out in his life.

This man was in trouble. He was dying and going to hell. He said, "*Lord, would you remember me?*" The Publican cried "*Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.*"

My friends, I believe that all honor and praise and preeminence has been given to Jesus Christ, not to us, but to Him. The Scripture says; "*All men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father that sent Him.*"

"*Let all the angels of God worship Him. God hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess in heaven, earth, and hell, that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*"

He is the Lord, King of kings. He is not the "sweet, little, Jesus boy" or some pitiful, frustrated, reformer; He is the Lord. He is the Lord our Righteousness, the Lord our Substitute, the Lord our Mediator, the Lord and the King, and the Lord our God.

What do I believe? I believe that all, (Jew and Gentile, male and female, young or old), who will hear His voice as Lord and who will hear His voice as the voice of authority and the voice of Lordship, redemption, the voice of the Father, and the voice of glory shall be saved.

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Hear His voice, His Word of the Gospel. If you believe in your heart that He is the Christ, I believe that you will have eternal life and shall never perish or come into condemnation, because in Christ our sins have already been judged. Christ died, and believers are free from the curse, penalty, and condemnation of the Law.

“He that heareth my Word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life.” His word is the word of power my friend, not just a plea, but power.

There will be a resurrection my friend. They are going to hear His voice in the resurrection. There will be a judgment. They are going to hear His voice. They will be an eternity and there they will hear His voice.

“What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?”