

# TALKING POINTS

## WHO IS JESUS? - PART 2

### LEARNING IN

When it comes to the person of Jesus, sometimes we miss the obvious truth, the obvious answer.

Jesus had asked His disciples the most important question - "who do you say I am?" to which Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". The question before each of us now is, "who do you say Jesus is?" Some may agree with Peter and say He is the Messiah. But for some, it's not so obvious.

Many today give Jesus a level of respect and honor but fall short for honoring Him for who He really is. The reality is, Jesus definitively claimed something greater about Himself - Jesus claimed to be God.

Since Jesus' identity has been debated, let's look at some of Jesus' claims in the Bible so we can conclude for ourselves. Certainly the passage in Matthew 15:16 is one such example. After Peter declares Him the Messiah, Jesus affirmed it by saying, "My Father gave you that answer". Which means, Jesus believes this to be true.

Jesus made other claims as well:

*He claimed He always existed.* "Before Abraham was I AM" (John 8:58)

*He claimed He and the Father are One.* "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30)

*He claimed if you've seen Him, you've seen the Father.* "Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father". (John 14:8-9)

Read Matthew 15:16

Have you always had the same understanding of who Jesus really is, or has it changed over time?

### LIVING IT OUT

As soon as Jesus claimed to be God, He removed Himself from being considered as just a good moral teacher. Since good, moral, wise, sane people don't claim to be God and they don't want you to think they are God, Jesus' claims about His identity leave us with three choices:

**Is Jesus a liar?** - Jesus' willingness to suffer and die for what he claimed indicates He certainly regarded those claims as true. People don't die for what they know to be a lie. *Liar's make poor martyrs.*

Read John 18:37-38, John 14:6

Have you ever heard anyone accuse Jesus of being a liar? If not, why would He be above this accusation?

**Is Jesus a lunatic?** - The Gospels clearly do not make Jesus out to be a lunatic. Lunatics don't heal people, raise the dead and dominate demons, while at the same time being marked by kindness, wisdom and compassion.

Read John 7:45-46, Matthew 7:28-29

Why does even secular culture not see Jesus as a lunatic?

**Is Jesus Lord?** - to this day, no one has had a greater impact on human history. He is the One who has conquered death and is the One whom every human soul is longing for. All of history points to *HIM*. He deserves our devotion.

Read John 1:14 1:18, Philippians 2:11

What does Jesus being the Lord of your life require from you?