

2 What did Jesus say about Himself?

Jesus said "I am the Son of God" and "anyone who has seen me has seen [God] the Father" (Matthew 27:43 and John 14:9). He claimed to be the promised Messiah or Christ (Mark 14:61, 62; John 4:25, 26). Jesus admitted being King (Luke 23:3) and having a Kingdom (Matthew 13:41). Jesus said "I am the Teacher and Lord (John 13:13). Jesus said: "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35); "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12); "I am from above; I am not of this world" (John 8:23); "I am the door" (John 10:9); "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11); Jesus told His disciples plainly: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) except through me" (John 14:6).

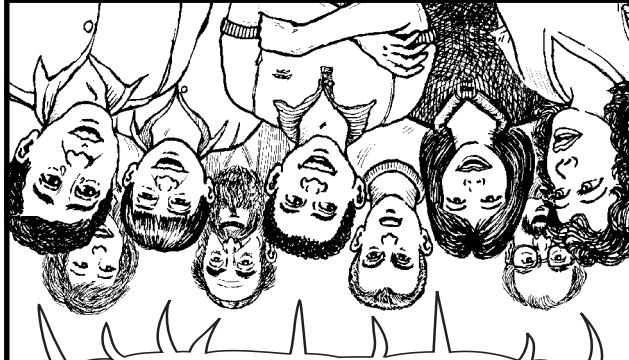


▲
Please open
(unfold) and
read inside.

1 Who do people say Jesus is?

Jesus Himself asked His disciples: "who do people say I am?" (Mark 8:27). Here are some common ideas about Jesus today:

- A good man. But a man like any other man.
- One of the great prophets.
- Who cares? What's the difference?
- He was a great philosopher. He preached about love and peace.
- God's Son. The Savior of the world.
- Messiah, the Promised One.
- There really never was a historical Jesus.
- An illumined spirit. An advanced spiritual guide.



7 A question only you can answer

After Jesus had asked His disciples who the people thought He was, He asked them: "but what about **you**?... Who do **you** say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-16). Have **you** answered this question? Have **you** done something about it? If not, do so before it's too late. You can repent, believe and invite Jesus into your life right now. Talk to God in your own words or pray something like this:



Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to show me the way to You. Thank You that He died on the cross in my place and for my sins. I trust Him to forgive me and take away my guilt before You. I repent from all the wrong I have ever done. From now on I want to live for you. I invite You into my life right now to be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

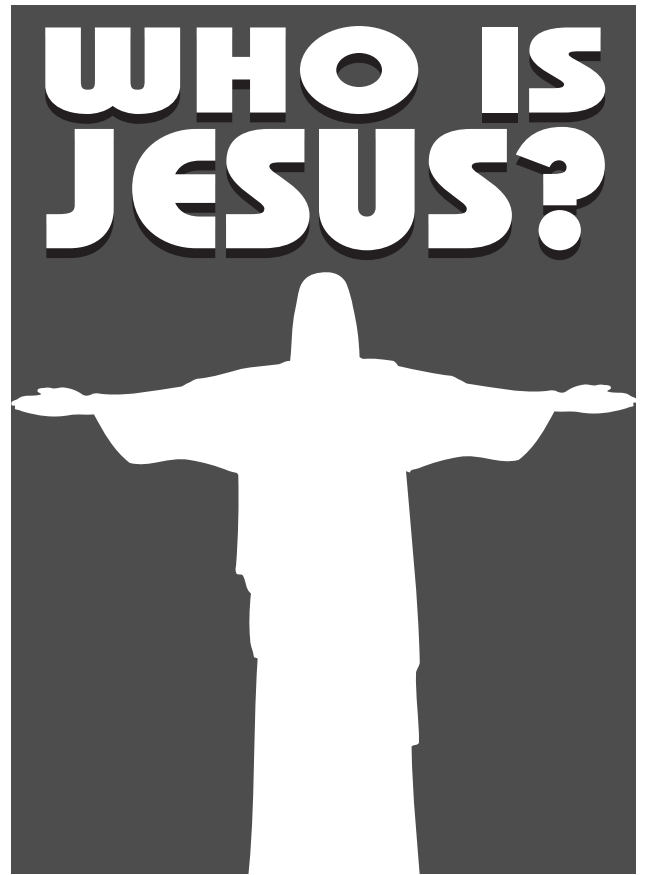
Let Jesus make all the difference in your life!

Read the Bible. Pray. Join a Christian church that teaches Jesus as the only way to God.

More info or tracts? Email jmhatton@cinmail.net or access www.impacto.org/j3-16

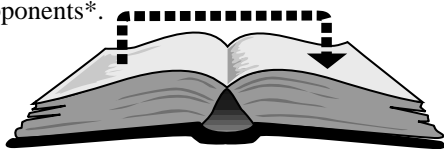
© 1999 - J 3:16 - Written and illustrated by John Hatton. May be copied and distributed without permission as long as tracts are given free of charge.



3 What is the biggest proof that Jesus is who He says He is?

Jesus told His disciples to “believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or **at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves**” (John 14:11). Jesus’ miracles were undeniable even by His biggest opponents*.

But there is bigger proof of His deity: the prophecies



about Him in the Old Testament. They tell where Jesus would be born – in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2); that He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14); even the exact number of days were given for His official arrival (Daniel 9:24-27), which was fulfilled on Palm Sunday when He entered Jerusalem; prophecies foretold He would be rejected and die for our sins (Isaiah 53); that His manner of death would be such that “they pierced my hands and my feet” (Psalm 22). And this is just a sample. No other religious scriptures have prophecies like the Bible (that is, all fulfilled without *any* error)!

(*) In fact, when Jesus brought a friend back to life the religious leaders, His greatest opponents, got together and said “what are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him ...” (John 11:47, 48).

4 Either what Jesus said about Himself is true or it is not.

There is no middle ground. When someone claims to be the Son of God, King and Lord, Truth and Life, you don’t just say “oh, but he’s such a good teacher and prophet” and pretend he never claimed to be divine.

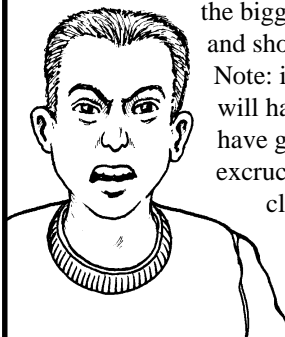
That’s why there are only three logical and legitimate alternatives before you:



First alternative*

When Jesus identified Himself with God (Whom He called “Father”), He was not telling the truth and He **knew** He was not telling the truth. In this case He was

the biggest con-artist that ever lived and should be ignored and forgotten.



Note: if you take this approach you will have to answer why He would have gone through the most excruciating form of execution for claiming to be God when He could have easily denied it and gotten off scot free.

(*) Based on an argument by C.S. Lewis in his book “Mere Christianity”

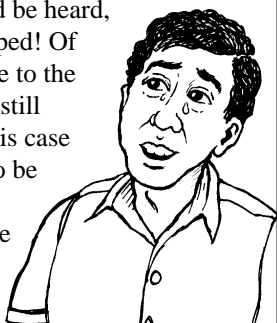
5 Second alternative

What Jesus said about Himself was not true but He **did not know** it was not true (He thought He was God but actually wasn’t). If this is the case He was mentally deranged or delirious and He and His followers should be pitied. Of course one would have to explain how He could always outwit His accusers and teach such amazing truths that even the guards who were sent to capture Him returned and said “no one ever spoke the way this man does” (John 7:46).



Third alternative

Jesus was speaking the truth: He said He is God and really is. In this case He should be heard, obeyed, followed and worshipped! Of course you could actually come to the conclusion that He is God and still choose to reject Him. But in this case you would be the one who is to be pitied, for you would have chosen to close your eyes to the Truth and to miss the only access to God the Father.



6 Not an alternative

Unfortunately many people try to select a fourth alternative which would accept Jesus as a good person but reject Him as God. But there is no way Jesus could have been wrong about His own identity and yet have been a “good teacher”, an “illuminated being”, an “inspired prophet.” We have seen that if what He said was not true then He was either a liar or delirious – and so could hardly be “good”, “illuminated” or “inspired.”



When Jesus called people to Himself He told them to “repent and believe” (Mark 1:15). Most people who reject Jesus have **chosen** not to believe, not because there isn’t enough evidence, but because they do not **want** to repent. **Repenting** means acknowledging your sins and asking God to forgive you. It also means being willing to leave your sins behind and changing your focus and lifestyle by putting Jesus first. **Believing** means placing all of your faith and confidence in Jesus and trusting Him alone with your life and eternal destiny. Jesus is the Way to God and the Gate to salvation. And the “keys” to open the Gate are **repentance** and **faith**.

Continues on back (page 7) ▶