

*Jesus Chapel*



FOUNDATION BIBLE COURSE - WEEK 2

## Who is Jesus?

Wednesday 11th October 2006

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Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

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## Evidence of Jesus

- Given that this Jewish man was so obscure there really is no reason to even have any writings of him.
- Having said that, there is still more evidence about Jesus of Nazareth than there is about Alexander the Great.
- There are very few records that survive from that era anyway, yet outside the four gospels there are at least two reliable sources of the existence of Jesus.
- All evidence agrees that a man named Jesus existed who attracted a following and was later crucified.
- Most the evidence we have about Jesus however comes from the New Testament

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## So what does the New Testament say about Jesus?

- John says that
  - He is the only begotten of the Father (John 1:14)
  - He is the Word of life (John 1:1-3)
  - He is the Messiah (Revelation 1:5-)
- Peter says that
  - He is the Messiah (Matthew 16:16, 1Peter 1:15-21, 1Peter 2:21-25)

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## Even His enemies had something to say

- The temple guards "No man ever spoke like this man!" (John 7:46)
- Evil spirits "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are **the Holy One of God!**" (Luke 4:34)
- Pontius Pilate "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, **I have found no fault in this Man** concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him." (Luke 23:14-15)
- A criminal crucified with Jesus "We receive the due reward of our deeds; but **this Man has done nothing wrong.**" Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." (Luke 23:41-42)

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## The sinless man

- The Bible is not afraid of mentioning the faults of its heroes.
- Both the Old Testament and the New have many instances of the Patriarchs making mistakes.
- Jesus however did not sin in any way and even today his character stands up against scrutiny.

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### But what did Jesus say about Himself?

- "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going." (John 8:14)
- "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. (John 7:16-17)
- The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming ... When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." (John 4:25-26)
- **"I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)
- **"I am the light of the world.** He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)
- **"I am the door of the sheep.** All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." (John 10:7-11)
- **"I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)
- **"I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

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### Does a good man say such things about himself?

- A man named Jesus existed. What is important to us is if He is really God.
- Some, including Muslims, Jews and secularists believe that He was a good man and a great teacher.
- Are these the sayings of a good man unless He believed them to be true?

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- If He believed them to be true, then either He was mad or He really was who He said He was.
- Today Christians come to the realization of Jesus Christ as being God through a working of the Holy Spirit who reveals this to them. (Matthew 16:15-17)

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## Jesus was God in the form of man

- Jesus was fully human
  - He had a body (Matthew 27:58-59)
  - He had emotions (John 11:35)
  - He experienced mental agony (Luke 22:44)
  - He experienced the same things that we do (Hebrews 4:15)

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## Jesus was God in the form of man

- Jesus was fully God
  - He is part of the Trinity (1 John 5:7)
  - He was present at the creation of the world (John 1:1)
  - He can forgive sins (Acts 5:30-32)
  - He is the only way to a relationship with God (John 14:6)

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## Discussion points

- Why did God come to Earth as a man and have the limitations of a man.
- The Messiah means “Anointed one” or “expected deliverer”. The Jews expected someone to deliver them from Roman rule and set up a new kingdom. How did Jesus fulfill the role of Messiah?

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