



The Holiness of God—Part 7
The Real Jesus— 1
From Sermon 10.2.22

Read *Matthew 16:13-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As the right view of holy gives us the right view of self, we find our desperate need for a Savior. It is Jesus. Although He came to earth as a man, He never divested Himself of holiness. He is equally holy as God the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is the central focus of the Church. Yet, the Church has lost the importance and the knowledge of His holiness. That must change.

1. When Jesus asked what the “word on the street” was concerning His identity, what were the responses and what do they imply? Important Bible figure. Major prophet. Empowered historical figure. = Good teacher, better than most, gifted wisdom. An Important person, but human and like us.

1a. Why is it so important to get the identity and nature of Jesus right? Our very salvation hangs in the balance. It effects everything we do as a church and how we worship and evangelize.

1b. What was Peter's great confession and what does it imply? That Jesus was the Christ Promised Messiah), Son of the Living God = God/Deity. Exclusivity = the only One from God.

2. Read each passage. What did Jesus teach about Scripture in the passage?

Matthew 4:4—Scripture is required for the Christian life and strength. It's the Sword of the Spirit.

Matthew 5:18—The details do matter, even down to the smallest word or punctuation mark

Mark 7:8-9—You cannot replace the Word of God with tradition = Sola Scriptura

Luke 24:44—Jesus is found, in the Scriptures, from cover to cover & all things must be fulfilled.

John 17:17—God's Word is the only truth. Other religious books are false. Scripture has power

3. When He said “Love your enemies” [*Matthew 5:43-45*], did He mean accept them as they are into the church and ignore sin? Not at all. He was saying to drop sinful prejudice and invite all to Christ through the Gospel. Church was started by Jewish believers who needed to know God had elected many others.

4. Read *Matthew 25:35*. When He taught to share and to feed the hungry, was He referring to State economies or national governments? No. This was for the personal followers of Christ and the Church. Jesus never espoused or condemned any form of government or social program.

5. Within a short amount of time, how did the early church revert back to a repackaged form of legal Judaism? After being liberated from the Law and a salvation based on works, the Church brought back ceremony, rituals (sacraments), hierarchy, exclusion from the Scriptures, idolatry....

6. The largest segment of Protestant Christianity insist that God promises health, wealth, and an easy life for the faithful. What did Jesus (and the New Testament writers) actually promise? Trials, Persecution, a future inheritance in the Kingdom. See also 2 Timothy 3:12