



WHO ACTUALLY IS JESUS CHRIST?

Study 2 The Important Question

When Pilate was presiding over Jesus' court case he became very afraid. "Where are you from?" he asked.

The crowds were shouting in the courtyard and demanding his execution. In the meantime his wife had rushed a note into the session. "Leave that innocent man alone," she said, "because I had a terrible nightmare about him last night."

Jesus stood in the dock, his name and address and charges, plus all the usual details laid before the court, yet it is Pilate who is the one that's afraid and his unusual question seems to be asking, "where do you **really** come from?"

On another occasion Jesus was driving out a demon. The demon began shrieking that he knew who Jesus was. Jesus commanded him to be silent; otherwise he would have screamed the house down. But clearly he had recognized Jesus for who he was. The disciples did not forget in a hurry either. They were quite shocked, and several people wrote it down.

What did the demons know? (Luke 4:31-41 See page 16)

Why was the governor afraid? (John 19:1-16 See page 17)

There were a lot of opinions about Jesus Christ. Angry divisions broke out between the people as to who he was: Even his enemies could not agree about him.

PEOPLE WERE STUNNED AT THE THOUGHT OF WHO HE MIGHT BE.

WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT HIM

Look at the riot he caused. Read these examples then connect the references (with arrow as shown) to what people were saying:

- He gets his power from a high ranking demon. John 9:30-33 (Page 11)
- He is the 'One' – the Holy One of God John 6:69 (Page 10)
- He is insane – completely raving mad! John 1:43-45 (Page 7)
- He must be from God because of the miracles. Luke 11:14-15 (Page 10)
- He's not Jewish. (inferring he could not be Messiah) John 10:19-21 (Page 11)
- He is who Moses and the prophets wrote about. John 8:48 (Page 10)

From John 5:18 and John 10:33 (See page 11) why were the leaders so furious with what Jesus was saying?

ANGRY DISAGREEMENTS BROKE OUT CONCERNING HIM.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF

As it approached the end Jesus asked his disciples to say what they believed. Don't just think it; say it! "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They said, "Some say this; some say that." But he said to them, "*But who do you say that I am?*"

What did Peter answer? Matthew 16:13-17 (Page 12)

A shocked group of disciples saw Jesus after he had risen from the dead. He spoke directly to Thomas: "Look at my hands," he said. "Touch the wound in my side."

What did Thomas say? John 20:28 (Page 13)

Did Jesus accept what Thomas said?

Tick one box.

Rebuked Thomas
for exaggerated
statement

Accepted Thomas'
statement without
correction.

And Christ has not stopped asking this question. The question still is, who do you say Jesus Christ is? How would you describe him? (Tick box.)

I think that he was simply a very good man.

A prophet with deep spiritual insight and power.

He was an angel or a 'god' but not the 'great GOD'

He was just as much GOD as the Father is GOD.

Not really sure - I'm still thinking about it.

THE IMPORTANT
QUESTION IS, WHO
DO YOU SAY
JESUS CHRIST IS?

WHOSE FACE WAS ON THE COIN?

When Jesus was a teenager, eighteen years of age, an unusual coin was minted in the Roman Empire. It had two faces. On one side was the figure of Augustus and on the other was Tiberius, his adopted son. The coin was struck a year before Augustus died because a situation had developed in the empire where the aging Augustus had his son appointed as co-regent, ruling with equal authority as he did. Tiberius was truly equal, in charge of the provinces, supreme commander over Caesar's armies, even taking the emperors seat at Senate meetings in Rome.

From this time came the idea that Augustus was a god and Tiberius was his son. Future coins read, 'Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus.'

Now it raises an interesting question. As we know, money remains in circulation for many years so the co-regency coinage was still around when Christ's enemies came to him with a cunning plan. Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you whether to pay taxes or not." When they handed it to him, he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." (Mark 12:15-17)

But whose face was on the coin? The assumption is it was Tiberius because it happened during his reign, however that is not necessarily so. It may have been; then again it may have been Augustus. It might even have been this coin with the face of Augustus on one side and Tiberius on the other. The point was it was Caesar irrespective of whose face was on the coin!

We don't actually know whose face it was but the 'penny dropped' anyway. It would not have passed the notice of Jewish leaders when Jesus said, "I and my Father are one!" Fresh in their memory was the unique political situation which existed from AD12 to AD14 before Augustus died. Now Christ tells them to look at a coin. They see the cheap imitation of deity in their hands then look up again. Who was this man standing straight in front of them? They were looking at the Son.



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