



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)

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

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, as listed in the answer page, then connect the references with arrows to what people were saying:

He gets his power from a high ranking demon.

He is the 'One' – the Holy One of God.

He is insane – completely raving mad!

He must be from God because of the miracles.

He's not Jewish. (inferring he could not be Messiah)

He is who Moses and the prophets wrote about.

John 9:30-33

John 6:69

John 1:43-45

Luke 11:14-15

John 10:19-21

John 8:48

From John 5:18 and John 10:33, 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 _____

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 _____

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.



**Find the answers on this page to
WHO ACTUALLY IS JESUS CHRIST?**



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

Read from your Bible John 19:1-16,
Matthew 27:19, Luke 4:31-41

John 1:45 (NIV)

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Luke 11:14-15 (GNT)

Jesus was driving out a demon that could not talk; and when the demon went out, the man began to talk. The crowds were amazed, but some of the people said, "It is Beelzebul, the chief of the demons, who gives him the power to drive them out."

John 9:30-33 (NIV)

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

John 10:31-33 (NIV)

Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

**What People said about Him
(John 5:12-18 NKJV)**

¹²Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, "Take up your bed and walk'?"

¹³But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. ¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

¹⁵The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

¹⁸Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

John 8:48 (NIV)

The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

John 6:66-69 (NLT)

At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

ANGRY DISAGREEMENTS
BROKE OUT CONCERNING
HIM.

John 10:19-21 (AMP)

A division of opinion occurred again among the Jews because of these words of His. Many of them said, "He has a demon and He is mad (insane - He raves and rambles). Why listen to Him?" Others were saying, "These are not the words and thoughts of one possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

What Jesus said about Himself (John 3: 14-21 NKJV)

¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Who do you say that I am? Matthew 16:13-17 (NASB)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

He who Believes is not Condemned

¹⁸"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

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

John 14: 1-11 (NIV)

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going."

I am the Way to the Father

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." ⁹Jesus 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. How can you say, 'Show us the Father' ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in

What must I do to be saved? Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

And he ... said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.

the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

Shocking realisation. John 20:26-28 (GNT)

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

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