

Who is Jesus?

Luke 22:63-23:25



Evangelical Free Church
of the Palouse

Big Idea: When it comes to knowing Jesus, he is always more than we think, never less.

Introduction

Jesus transitions from the private agony of Gethsemane to the public examination and trial before the Jewish and Roman officials. At the center of these events is the question, “Who is Jesus?” Throughout the passage, four significant titles are used: The Christ, The Son of Man, The Son of God, and The King of the Jews. In every case, there is much more to these titles than the people realize.

For example, answering the question “Are you the Christ?” isn’t as simple as “yes” or “no”. Jesus deliberately escalates the line of questioning by implicating himself as being the Son of Man seated at God’s right hand that Daniel describes in Daniel 7:13. The leaders clearly interpret this as a claim of royal divinity, which leads to the charge of blasphemy.

The sermon addressed Jesus’ use of the response “You say that I am” (Matt. 26:63-64; Luke 22: 70; 23:3). This is an ambiguous affirmative that allowed Jesus to respond positively to the questions while also redefining his definition of the title (see quotes from Ladd and Bock below).

Text

Luke 22:63-23:25, with a primary emphasis on Luke 22:63-71.

Main Points

Bulletin Notes were as follows:

Main Idea: We never know a person until we get to know them.

Jesus is always MORE than we think; never LESS.

Four Titles of Jesus:

1. The CHRIST (22:67)
2. The Son of MAN (22:69)
3. The Son of GOD (22:70)
4. The KING OF THE JEWS of the Jews (23:3)

Confession:

“Lord Jesus, I have underestimated _____.”

“I want to “press on” in knowing Jesus by: _____”

Introduction:

The sermon began with a question “Have you ever underestimated who a person is?” Josh gave an example of underestimating a fellow math teacher who was also a nationally certified volleyball official. Josh also shared how, while in the Air Force, he responded disrespectfully toward a man in civilian clothes. The man turned out to be a First Sergeant.

These examples illustrate how we don’t really know a person until we get to know them. In a similar, but more severe way, Jesus was woefully underestimated by those who questioned him. Jesus said that if he told the officials who he was (i.e. who he *really* was), then they wouldn’t believe. As the questioning unfolds, he is right.

Thoughts on the phrase “You say that I am”:

1. The “you” in each instance is emphasized; i.e. “YOU are saying...”
2. This appears to subtly imply that the questioners acknowledge at least *some* truth behind the question. Consider the analogy of my son pretending to be Superman. After so long, I wouldn’t say “Are you Superman?” I would say, “Why are you pretending?” or “Stop pretending...”

Jesus was asked, “Are you the Christ?”. He was not asked “Are you pretending...?” or “Why are you pretending...?” Consider the quote from Nigel Turner’s *Grammatical Insights into the New Testament*:

“Strangely enough, Caiaphas had refrained from asking, “Are you *claiming* to be Messiah?” His question was, “Are you the Messiah?” That is not quite the same, and the answer of Jesus is a gentle reminder that the high priest was putting the words into his mouth. “You are saying so. You are not even suggesting that I might be making a false claim. You are saying that I could be the Messiah, and you want me to tell you whether I am.”

“Son of Man” used to reinterpret the meaning of “Messiah”

“By designating himself the Son of Man, Jesus claimed to be the Messiah; but in a way in which he used the term, he indicated that his messiahship was of a very different order from that which was popularly expected. The “Son of Man” permitted him to lay claim to messianic dignity but to interpret that messianic office in his own way. It was a claim, therefore, that would not be readily recognized by the people who possessed an erroneous concept of the Messiah...” (George Ladd, *Theology of the New Testament*)

“Is Jesus reluctant to answer, does he affirm the title, or does he qualify the question? The ambivalent response in two of the versions [i.e. Matthew and Luke] indicates that the question is formed in a way that Jesus does not entirely accept...They want to know about the Messiah, but he responds with a full divine vindication. However, this is not a rejection of the title. It simply points out that what it means is far more than was realized....Jesus is the anointed one of God in terms of authority and rule...So they see Jesus accepting the claim to be king and take that political dimension of the charge to Pilate to seek Jesus’ death.” (Darrell Bock, *Who is Jesus?*)

Application

1. Consider ways in which you have underestimated someone. How have you underestimated Jesus?
2. What would it look like for Jesus to have the kind of authority over your life that is described in Daniel 7:13-14?

3. How would you respond to Paul's admonition to "press on" (Phil. 3:12-14)? What areas are weak that need strengthened, weary that need refreshment, etc. that you need to get to know Jesus better?