

Who Is Jesus Part 10 – Next Gen Service

I Am

John 8:48-59

Memory Verses: **John 8:58**

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction

In **Matthew 16:15** Jesus asks; who do you say that I am? It's a great question. Who is Jesus?

For over a month now we've been answering this question from the very words of Christ. He says I am the Good Shepherd. I am the door and the way. I am the truth. I am the resurrection and the life. I am living water and the bread of life. I am the true vine.... And last week we saw that he says I am the light of the world. **But... he is even more than all of these.** So much more. We could literally preach this series for the next 10 years exhausting all that Jesus is and all that he encompasses. He is the king of kings, the lord of lords, the prince of peace, the great physician, the son of man and son of God, the ancient of days, the logos the Word, the servant's master, the bright and morning star, the conqueror of the age... and so much more! Who is Jesus... he is everything you need!

But all of who Jesus is... hinges on one great thing. If he is not this one great thing... then all of the rest of this really doesn't matter. And that one great thing is this.... Is Jesus God? Is He God?

This is what separates what the New Testament teaches from what the Old Testament teaches. This is what separates what the Bible teaches from what the Koran teaches. This is what separates what the Bible teaches from what the book of Mormon teaches. The Jews, Muslims, Mormons... all believe that Jesus was a man... a good man... a prophet... a good teacher... but none of them believe that he is the one true God. Get this.... if Jesus is not God then what separates our faith from the faith of others? No... this is why we are Christians. Because we believe that more than a good teacher, more than a good prophet, more than a moral philosopher, more than an angel, or a divine person... we believe that Jesus is God!

And when we say that; when we say that Jesus is God, the first thing that you will hear all of these other religions and atheists proclaim is this... "Jesus never claimed to be God. Jesus never says I Am God."

Well... let's turn to the final I Am statement of Jesus this morning in the book of John. Let's read **John 8:48-59** and let us see what Jesus actually says.

There's a lot here and we are going to break it all down in a second... but before we do I want you to stop and think and ask yourself

a very important question. Do I believe that Jesus is God? Is he the one true God of whom I owe my worship and my obedience? You must ask yourself this question and answer it. Because, you see this morning....

The Answer to the Question; "Is Jesus God," Determines Not Only Who Jesus Is... But Who You Are

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing I want us to recognize is that... **When Jesus Said I AM He Was Saying I Am God.** Turn with me over to Exodus 3 and the story of Moses & The Burning Bush. If you aren't familiar with this story... the Israelites have been in captivity for 400 years and God is ready to deliver them. He wants to use a man named Moses to help him. But Moses has been far from God for a long time. He was a prince of Egypt who had to flee Egypt because he murdered and Egyptian. He was rejected even by his own people too and so he went into the wilderness to become a shepherd until he had become an old man.

God has to do something to get his attention... so he shows up in a burning bush. Now I wanted to set a bush on fire to show you what it was like... but I thought that that might be a fire hazard so... here's a **Candle**. Now, could you imagine God speaking to you through this candle? That's crazy right. But God spoke to moses through the fire. And he told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Israelite captives go.

Now you have to put yourself in Moses' situation here. He's listening to the voice of God coming out of the burning bush... represented here by our burning candle. And that's crazy and kind of throwing himself for a loop. And now the bush is telling him to go and rescue over a million people from the slavery of the most powerful nation on Earth. And so you must understand that Moses, now an 80 year old man by the way, is a little unsure of himself or his ability to accomplish this task. And so he asks the burning bush a question... How do I explain this God who speaks through burning bushes? Who do I say you are God?

Look with me at **Exodus 3:13-14**. God says, tell them I AM WHO I AM. Tell them I AM has sent you. So get this... God's Name is I AM. So... go back in John chapter 8... **When Jesus told the pharisees, "before Abraham was I AM," he was saying I AM God.** Mind blown right. No, Jesus never actually said the words "I Am God," but to the pharisees who knew the Old Testament backwards and forwards... they knew exactly what Jesus was saying... he was telling them I Am the I Am... I Am God.

One quick thing before we leave Exodus chapter 3. Look how knowing that this burning bush was actually God changed Moses life. A prince, became a murderer. A murderer became a fugitive. A fugitive who became a shepherd. A shepherd who became an old man. An old man who became the hero of Israel. And all because the I AM was with him. Because he knew who his God was he becomes the deliverer and leader of

Israel. Listen... **When you encounter the I AM... you become something greater than you ever though you could be.** **The Answer to the Question; "Is Jesus God," Determines Not Only Who Jesus Is... But Who You Are**

The second and most important thing we need to recognize here is this **When Jesus Says I Am God, We Must Decide To Worship Him or Reject Him.** Let's turn back over to **John 8:48-59.** One of the themes of this paragraph is the idea of self glorification verses real glory. Look how Jesus talks about his glory in **vs50.** Jesus doesn't seek his own glory but God does and God is the judge whether or not Jesus is worthy of Glory. Now... according to the Bible what is the only thing that is worthy of glory? God right? So understand what Jesus is saying. Jesus is saying... God will determine whether or not I'm worthy of glory because only God can determine if I am truly God.

Now look at **vs54.** If Jesus glorifies himself (if he worships himself) then that doesn't mean anything... glory can only be magnified by those outside of the object of glory. So Jesus wants us to acknowledge that he is God and ascribe to him the glory he deserves.

Let me explain this a little more clearly. **Landon...** come on up here son. Now if Landon claims he's the greatest person every but no one believes him then is he the greatest? Does he have glory? Landon go ahead and try it. Yell "I'm the greatest." Nothing right. But what if everyone stands up and starts cheering for Landon and yelling... Landon... you're the best... you're the greatest. Go ahead... stand up... clap and shout Landon you're the greatest. Now its a little more real because it was given to him from someone outside of himself. Michael Jordan was once asked...are you the greatest basketball player that ever lived. He said.. i'll never say that. I don't have to. Everyone else does it for me. Real glory must be acknowledged outside of the object of glory.

Look... the Jews mocked Jesus instead of worshipping him... because they could not believe that he was God... they chose to reject him. But others see him as God and they give him the glory he deserves. The point is this... **if Jesus is God then he is worthy of Glory and Worship .** This is transformative isn't it. Just like the way the I Am changed Moses... it will change you. If Jesus is God then you cannot just go on worshipping anything and everything. If you believe Jesus is God then you become a person who Glorifies Jesus above all else. Glorifying Jesus becomes the sole purpose of your life! In everything you do you worship him.

But not only does knowing Jesus is God make us worship him... but it also makes us obey him. Look at **vs55.** Jesus knows that God the father is God and he obeys his word... so in the same way if we know that Jesus is God then we will obey his words.

So again... If **Landon** – tells all of you... hands up this is the police... what are you gonna do? Laugh ... ignore him. I don't know Landon, try it and see what happens. Exactly. But what's if Landon grows up becomes a police officer walks in here with his uniform on and says there is an emergency and I need all of you to put your hands in the air...then what? Well then you obey his words... why? Because if he is a real police officer then he should be obeyed. We obey based upon who we know him to be right? So... **If we believe that Jesus is God then we must do what he tells us to do.**

And once again this transforms us... when we start seeing Jesus as the prime authority of our lives then we willingly obey his instructions. We become people who used to live only according to what we wanted to do... but now we do what Jesus wants us to do. We used to write our own rules but now we follow his words and his rules. It changes you completely. **The Answer to the Question; "Is Jesus God," Determines Not Only Who Jesus Is... But Who You Are**

Application (Resolution, You)

So who is Jesus to you? He was raised from the dead by his own power. The power of God. He was worshipped as God. He forgave people's sins like only God could. And, he said he was God. So... Do you believe that Jesus is God?

If you do believe he is God then you have to make a decision. Will you worship him as God and bring him the glory that he deserves... or will you reject him. If Jesus is God it should change your life. It should make you a person who's life is all about bringing Jesus the glory he alone deserves. It should make you a person who is obedient to the Words of Jesus and who follows his instructions. Believing that Jesus is God should radically transform who you are and what you do as a person. **The Answer to the Question; "Is Jesus God," Determines Not Only Who Jesus Is... But Who You Are**

Conclusion

So... how did the Jews respond? Look at **vs59** – they picked up stones to throw at him. Each of you has a **stone** on your chair this morning... and now you have a chance to respond. Do you want to reject Jesus or worship Jesus as God. in Abraham and Moses days if they wanted to worship God they would build an altar out of stones. So...this morning this is how we are going to end our time together... there are lots of things you can do with your stone. You can carry it out of the service with you and then throw in the woods as a symbol that you've rejected Jesus as your God. Or, you can take it home with you, put it on your dresser, and if you are still not sure if Jesus is God or if you aren't ready to surrender your life to him then you can just wait to do something with it later. Or, you can come

down to the front this morning and place them here on the floor as an altar of worship unto the Lord... making a statement that I believe Jesus is God and the worthy of my worship. The choice is yours as we sing this morning.