

## Who is Jesus?

Philippians 2:5–11 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is arguably the most popular person in history. A worldwide holiday marks his birth. His life affected the marking of time from B.C. meaning before Christ to A.D. which stands for Anno Domini a Latin phrase that means “in the year of our Lord”.

Josh McDowell author of the book, *More Than A Carpenter* said, “After I set out to refute Christianity intellectually and couldn't, I came to the conclusion the Bible was true and Jesus Christ was God's Son.”

Phillips Brooks a 19<sup>th</sup> century preacher is quoted as saying, “Jesus Christ, is the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity.”

He is saying Jesus is God coming down to us and Jesus in His humanity takes us up to God.

Mark Hopkins an educator and a theologian said, “No revolution that has ever taken place in society can be compared to that which has been produced by the words of Jesus Christ.”

His teachings have caused controversy, and his compassion has caused many to follow him.

Who is Jesus? Why do we focus so much attention on one person? Why was time altered because of this man? Why do people give their life for this man? Why do people sing like they do when they meet this man? Why do people change so much when they come in contact with this man?

I was telling my testimony to someone and they said what happened to you? I told them I realized God was protecting me. There was a man who saw something in me that I didn't see in myself and He kept me from what could have been. That man is Jesus.

What is so important about Jesus?

Well, allow me to present to some and introduce to others Jesus the Christ the son of God who takes away the sins of the world.

There are many passages of scripture we could go to, but today I want to look at Paul's letter to the church in the city of Philippi. Paul had a special love for this church. He tells them in chapter 1:3, I thank God in all my remembrance of you. In chapter 4 he thanks them for the generous gift so much he says he is amply supplied. He uses this letter to encourage these people that

Christ was sufficient for whatever they were looking for, and in Chapter 2, Paul gives us one of the most classic passages in the bible that speak about Jesus and teaches us why Jesus is such a big deal. As we look at this passage...

There are four lessons I want you to learn about of who Jesus is...And why He is such a big deal...Are you interested...

First, Paul tells us He is such a big deal because...

1. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Philippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

The King James version says, "He considered it not robbery"

Basically, What Paul is saying is Jesus in the form of a man was God. Jesus also known as Emmanuel or God with us. He never stopped being God when he was born from Mary. He didn't consider it robbery because he was God. He did not consider being God something to be grasped or something he needed to attain because he was already God—why would he need to try to be something he was...Paul said Jesus is fully God.

During this day many came along trying to make the claim that they were the Messiah. Many came along trying to prove that they were the son of God that the OT prophets talked about, but through all of their claims, none had the power to show that they were God. Jesus is the only person to have the evidence to show he was God.

He showed He was God through his miracles.

The bible records over 30 miracles that Jesus performed. He healed a woman with blood issues that spent all of her money only to find Jesus who not only cured her issues, but made her a whole respectable person.

He fed over 5000 men, women and children with a few tuna fish sandwiches – the bible calls it two fish and five loaves of bread. He prayed and broke it until everyone was fed and even had twelve baskets left over so his 12 disciples could carry them and think about just how much of God he was.

He Raised Lazarus from the dead after he was not just dead, but dead buried and wrapped up. As a matter of fact, Lazarus was sick, but Jesus waited until he died to show he was God by raising him from the dead. All the miracles point to Jesus as God.

He showed He was God through his witnesses.

John in his gospel writes in chapter 20:31, this is so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of God.

On the Mountain of Transfiguration, three disciples saw him changed into his perfect state – Peter, James and John saw him change and Moses and Elijah appeared. It was so amazing that Peter said he wanted to stay there. Not only did the disciples witness to the fact he was God, God Himself spoke his approval. As they were standing there the voice of God speaks, “This is my Son My chosen one, my beloved son”

How would you like God the Father to get on the witness stand for you

Could God be a witness that you love like you say you do?

Could God be a witness that you serve like you say you do?

Could God be a witness that you live like you say you do?

I want to be one that when I need a witness to testify to my living a life for God, that God himself gets in the witness chair and says yes this is my son...yes this is my daughter...I can testify that they Love unconditionally...I can testify that they give with their heart...I can testify that they live for me....You may be able to fool some, but you will never fool God...God says I can witness to Jesus being very God.

He also showed He was God through his Forgiveness.

As Jesus walked the earth and encountered people, one of the biggest problems the Jewish leaders had against him was that he had the audacity to tell people your sins are forgiven.

To them this was blasphemy because only God could forgive sins. When they would approach Jesus about forgiving sins, he would say things like what is easier, to forgive sins or tell a lame man to walk? Then he would heal the lame man to show he could forgive sins.

love it because He offers the same forgiveness today. No matter what your sins are, no matter what you have done wrong, there is nothing you can or could do that would be too much for Jesus to forgive you. His blood is strong enough to cover all your mistakes, mishaps and troubled life no matter what.

He had to be fully God in order for the sacrifice to be enough. And He had to be fully man in order for us to be able to relate to him.

The bible says Jesus cried when his friend died in John chapter 11 when Lazarus died before He got there and in the shortest verse in the Bible, “Jesus Wept” He would raise him, but grief is grief and it is ok.

When Jesus was in the Garden after fasting for 40 days it tells us he was hungry. Even when it came close to time for Jesus to die, he labored in prayer asking if God could change the plan to keep him from suffering but submitted to God’s will and went to the cross.

He was fully God and fully man.

I was working out at the seminary gym at Dallas Theological Seminary and one of the professors came over and said, do you wonder what it means to be God and man? It would be as if you tied a bamboo stick to this barbell---when you tie them together you have now attached

the strength and power of the barbell...the unbending nature...the solid thick heaviness of the barbell...yet it now it also possesses the weak frailty of the bamboo stick the ability to be broken...So the barbell never stopped being a barbell and the bamboo never stopped being a bamboo they just now possess the same space and hold both attributes.

Jesus is fully God able to forgive sin...heal diseases...raise the dead control nature...but he is also man so that he gets hungry like we do...gets thirsty like we do...cries like we do...and hurts like we do...so that when you are going through, you are not praying to one who does not understand...but you are praying to one who not only understands, but that can do something about it.

- 1-Jesus is fully God and fully man..... Why is Jesus such a big deal...
2. Jesus Gave Himself so that all could be saved.

Philippians 2:7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Verse seven says, He emptied himself, meaning, He took on the form of a weak creature when He could have stayed in heaven.

He shows us what true humility looks like by giving up all he had, to walk on earth and deal with persecution and people that hated him, just so that he could help the very people that hurt him. Not only did he give up his seat he gave up his life. Verse 8 says, he became obedient even to death on the cross. The worst death of that day was death on the cross. The most humiliating form of dying was the cross. Jesus took nails and a crown of thorns, he was beaten and bruised so that all could be saved. He gave himself for us.

And you must know He was truly killed, and He really died. The one truth that most historians, Christian or non-Christian, can admit to is that Jesus did die on the cross.

There is historical evidence that proves he died. Even religions who believe that there is a God, but don't believe that Jesus is God, will admit and believe it as a common fact that Jesus did die. Roman records and Jewish records record the death of this man named Jesus. This is not a fictional character created to make people submit to religion, this is a real man who died a real death.

Don't discredit that information as not important, because if he was going to be a substitute for the goats and lambs that used to be used in the old testament to pay for sins, he had to die. If he didn't die then he couldn't be a sacrifice. By him being the sacrifice that paid the final debt for sin through his death, he was made the substitute for us. He stood in our place. Because He died, we don't have too.

He was not just any substitute, he was a substitute who cared.

It reminds me of the time I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and my teacher was absent for a couple of days. The first day she was out we had a substitute, but this substitute didn't know me from anyone else, she was just there to do her job then go home. When I went to school the next day, I expected the same only to walk in the door and see that my Grandmother was my substitute for the day. Can you imagine my surprise expecting an uncaring person who had just come to do their job and go home, only to find that one of my most favorite people in the world had come to stand in. I didn't even have to wear a name tag that day, because this was no ordinary substitute, this was a substitute that had a special love for me.

When Jesus died on the cross, he was no ordinary substitute. He was a substitute that knew what he was dying for and died anyway. He was a substitute that knew I was going to break his heart and he died anyway. This was a substitute that knew I did not deserve what he has to offer, but he died anyway.

Knowing that he died for me makes me care a little more than normal. It makes me love a little more. Knowing that he died for me, makes me give a little more. Knowing that he died for me makes me want to live for him.

It's like the woman who washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair and others ridiculed her and fussed at Jesus telling him to make her stop, and Jesus said, if you knew the debt that she was relieved of you would understand. If you knew the cost, you would join her in the worship.

Jesus gave himself so that all could be saved.

Who is Jesus, why is He such a big deal?...

- 1-Jesus is fully God and fully man...
- 2-Jesus Gave Himself so that all could be saved
3. Jesus was exalted by God the Father.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

God highly exalted him

Yes Jesus died on the cross, but we don't go through all the trouble of celebrating easter because he died on the cross. If that was the case, all the celebration would be over on good Friday, and Good Friday would not be good because all it would pertain to is death, but the reason we celebrate easter, resurrection Sunday is because God highly exalted him, Jesus was exalted in the resurrection. Jesus rose from the Dead.

Some try to refute the resurrection

Here are a few of the major objections:

1-Jesus did not raise from the dead, His body was stolen from the tomb.

Who would have stolen it? Neither the Jews nor the Romans would have stolen it. As a matter of fact, it would have proven their point to be able to display the body for all to see so that they could humiliate the followers and put an end to this meager group of people who followed Christ. The disciples could not have stolen the body with the Roman guard at the door. All accounts show that the disciples were scared and disheartened after the crucifixion.

They would not have risked their lives for a cause that was a lie. And with the power in which they carried on the message from a group with everything against them, this would not make sense.

2-Jesus only fainted and then recovered from His wounds.

Crucifixion is excruciating. And included asphyxia or suffocation, dehydration, and heart failure. It would have been impossible for a beaten Jesus to move the stone and limp from his grave. Then to show himself to the disciples. They would have been more discouraged with this weak beaten up Jesus than encouraged.

Another excuse is, the witnesses who saw him after he died were just seeing things.

Could 500 plus people see a hallucination at the same time?

He appeared several times. Peter, Thomas, the disciples, the women at the tomb.

None of those objections hold up, because Jesus did get up and He is alive.

The bible says that now He sits at the right hand of the Father

He sits at God's right hand interceding for us day and night praying for us because God Exalted Him. So now he sits at the right hand of God.

I don't know about you, but to me that's a pretty big deal, that the man that understands what I feel the one that prays for me is sitting at the very right hand of God the Father. The one who calls me friend has been exalted to a sit on high.

Its like my friend I went to high school with and played football with he was good, he was so good that after 3years in college, he was exalted to the NFL, I was so excited because now I had a friend in high places...I had a friend who could get me tickets to the game if I needed it, I had a friend who could help me network if I needed it...I had a friend that had been exalted that I could call on.

Jesus has been exalted to the highest seat ever, so now I have a friend in high places. I have a friend to call on. I have a friend that knows me and understands. I have a friend that sits high and watches over me. I have a friend that prays for me and has bridged the gap between me and God. Jesus has been exalted and He is my friend.

Who is Jesus, and why is He such a big...

1-Jesus is fully God and fully man...2-Jesus Gave Himself so that all could be saved 3-Jesus was exalted by God the Father.

4. Jesus will be confessed by all.

Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Verse 10 says, “every knee”. Every Knee means every Angel will confess. Every being in heaven will confess. Every person on earth will confess whether you accepted him or not. Even Satan will confess. Every demon will confess. Every trouble maker will confess. There is nothing or no one anywhere that will be able to keep their mouth closed. Jesus even said if the disciples were quiet, the rocks will cry out. When it’s time to face Jesus and stand before His throne, He won’t need the rocks because everyone will be shouting His praises.

What will they be confessing? Jesus is Lord. He is kind of a big deal!

This reminds me of last week, I was watching some basketball clips about Shai Gilgeous Alexander, better known in the sports world as SGA. I was like wow what an athlete, my wife was like...yey....what’s the big deal?

SGA is a four-time NBA All-Star, not only is he a four time NBA All-Star, he was named the NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the 2024–25 NBA season. Not only is he a four time NBA All-Star, not only was he named the NBA MVP for the 2024-25 NBA season, He won the NBA Finals MVP award as the Thunder won the 2025 NBA Finals, becoming the fourth player in NBA history to win the MVP award, Finals MVP award, and scoring title all in the same season. Not only did he accomplish all of that, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander this year broke Wilt Chamberline record of scoring 20 points in consecutive games by scoring 20 points in 127 straight games. A record that stood since 1963. That’s kind of a big deal!

Then I thought about Jesus. When people say what’s the big deal about Jesus? What’s the big deal about this man? It’s a big deal because He is fully God and fully man...But He didn’t stop there, not only is He fully God and fully man, but he gave his life even dying on the cross, but he didn’t stop there, He was fully God and fully man, he gave his life by dying on the cross, but that’s not all, he didn’t stop there, he was fully God and fully man, he gave his life, but It’s a real big deal because He didn’t stay dead....It’s a big deal because He got up with all power in his hand. It’s a big deal because all will confess that He is Lord. It’s a big deal because all will jump out of their seats and cheer because Christ is a big deal...Because Christ is the real thing...If you haven’t heard that story before...if you haven’t confessed his name...now is a good time...because everyone will confess that he is Lord.

God loved us so much that when we were running in the wrong direction, trying our best to ruin our lives, He loved us enough to send His only son to take on our sin so we can live free. You can have that freedom today. And once you are free, we want to walk with you to grow. Once you give your life to Christ, you will need to grow, and we have a discipleship pathway ready to

assist you in growing to being all that God wants you to be. You can find that info in the foyer, but it starts right here. Amen, Let's pray.