



**WHO WAS  
THAT  
MASKED  
MAN?**



Prince of Peace

Mighty God

A Father

A Son Advocate

The Creator

Who is  
Jesus Christ?



Son of God

Almighty

Omnipotent

Senior

Judge


Hope

God

Omnipresent

Strength

Fortress



Liar?  
Lunatic?  
Legend?

or *Lord*

# His Enemies

- **Matt 4:3a** – “And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God...’”
- **Luke 5:21a** – “The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, ‘Who is this man who speaks blasphemies?’”
- **Luke 9:9** – “Herod said, ‘I myself had John beheaded; but who is this man about whom I hear such things?’ And he kept trying to see Him.”

# The Neutral

- **Luke 7:49** – “Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, ‘Who is this man who even forgives sins?’”
- **Matt 21:10** – “When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, ‘Who is this?’”
- **John 8:25** – “So they were saying to Him, ‘Who are You?’”
- **John 12:34** – “The crowd then answered Him, ‘We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, “The Son of Man must be lifted up”? Who is this Son of Man?’”

# The Interested

- **Luke 19:1-4** – “He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way.”
- **John 4:29** – “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?”

# The Healed

- **John 5:10-15** – “So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.” <sup>11</sup> But he answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk.’” <sup>12</sup> They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk’?” <sup>13</sup> But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. <sup>14</sup> Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” <sup>15</sup> The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ”
- **John 9:36** – “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

# The Followers

- **Matt 16:13-16** – “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.’”
- **Mark 4:41** – “They became very much afraid and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?’”
- **Matt 11:3** – “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”





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# Outline

- Is Jesus a Legend?

# Is Jesus a Legend?

- Most biographies w/smallest time period in between
  - Tiberius died 37AD, biography written 110 – 120AD
  - Alexander the Great died 323BC, biography written 130AD
  - Jesus died ~33AD, gospels were written within 30-40 years
- Unity of the gospels
  - Matt (Hebrews), Mark (Romans), Luke (Gentiles), John (All)
  - Diversity and continuity
- No motive for inventing a legendary Jesus
  - Led to persecution, imprisonment, torture, and death
  - Why put a giant target on your head?

# Is Jesus a Legend?

- Apostles recorded uncomplimentary facts
  - **Mark 9:32** – “But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.”
  - **Acts 4:13** – “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”
  - **Mark 14:37** – “And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?’”
  - **Matt 26:73-74** – “A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, ‘Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away.’ Then he began to curse and swear, ‘I do not know the man!’ And immediately a rooster crowed.”
  - **Matt 28:17** – “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.”
  - **Mark 8:33** – “But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.’”

# Is Jesus a Legend?

- Apostles recorded uncomplimentary facts
  - **Mark 3:21** – “When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, ‘He has lost His senses.’”
  - **John 7:12** – “There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, ‘He is a good man’; others were saying, ‘No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.’”
  - **Matt 11:19** – “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”
  - **Mark 3:22** – “The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul,’ and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.””
  - **John 8:48** – “The Jews answered and said to Him, ‘Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?’”
  - **John 6:66** – “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.”

# Is Jesus a Legend?

- Secular, non-Christian records that mention Jesus
  - **Tacitus** (A.D. 55-120), considered the greatest historian of ancient Rome, wrote of Nero who “punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. Christus [Christ], the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time, broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also.”
  - **Josephus** (A.D. 38-100+), famous Jewish historian, wrote about Jesus in his *Jewish Antiquities*, saying that Jesus was a wise man who did surprising feats, taught many, won over followers from among Jews and Greeks, that Jesus was believed to be the Messiah, was accused by the Jewish leaders, was condemned to be crucified by Pilate, and was considered to be resurrected.
  - **Jewish Talmud:** (A.D. 70-200) “We learn that Jesus was conceived out of wedlock, gathered disciples, made blasphemous claims about himself, and worked miracles, but these miracles are attributed to sorcery and not to God.”
  - **Suetonius:** (A.D. 64) “Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus [Christ], he expelled them from Rome.”
  - **Celsus:** (A.D. 200) Accuses Jesus of being a magician and a sorcerer.

# Is Jesus a Legend?

- Secular, non-Christian records that mention Jesus
  - **Thallus:** (A.D. 52) One of the first Gentile writers, wrote to try and explain away the darkness that occurred when Jesus died.
  - **Mara bar Serapion:** (A.D. 73) “What else can we say, when the wise are forcibly dragged off by tyrants, their wisdom is captured by insults, and their minds are oppressed and without defense? What advantage did the Athenians gain from murdering Socrates? Famine and plague came upon them as a punishment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burning Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that their kingdom was abolished. God justly avenged these three wise men: the Athenians died of hunger; the Samians were overwhelmed by the sea and the Jews, desolate and driven from their own kingdom, live in complete dispersion. But Socrates is not dead, because of Plato; neither is Pythagoras, because of the statue of Juno; nor is the wise king, because of the ‘new law’ he laid down.”

# Outline

- Is Jesus a Legend?
- What Did Jesus Say About Himself?



# What Did Jesus Say About Himself?

- **Mark 14:61-62** – “But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, ‘Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?’ And Jesus said, ‘I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.’”
- **Matt 16:15-17** – “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.’”

# What Did Jesus Say About Himself?

- **John 8:58-59** – “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.’ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.”
- **John 10:30-33** – “‘I and the Father are one.’ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, ‘I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?’ The Jews answered Him, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.’”

# What Did Jesus Say About Himself?

- **John 20:28-29** – “Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.’”
- **Matt 28:9-10** – “And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.’”
- **John 9:35-38** – “Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.’ And he said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshiped Him.”

# Outline

- Is Jesus a Legend?
- What Did Jesus Say About Himself?
- Was Jesus a Liar?

# Was Jesus a Liar?

- “If Jesus claimed to be God, but knew He was not, He was a liar.”
- Consequences:
  - He knowingly led people to eternal damnation
  - He was a hypocrite
  - He was a fool for undergoing crucifixion and death

# Was Jesus a Liar?

- Jesus does not fit the character of a liar
  - He consistently taught His followers to be honest at all costs, to give sacrificially to others, and to share unconditionally
    - **Matt 5:37** – “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”
    - **John 15:13** – “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”
    - **Matt 5:40-42** – “If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”
  - He not only taught these things; He lived by them

# Was Jesus a Liar?

- Jesus does not fit the character of a liar
  - Men do not live monumental lies when it brings them no material gain and no immediate fame
  - If He wanted people to follow Him, why would He go to the Jewish nation instead of Egypt or Greece?
    - Much higher population
    - They already believed in various gods

# Was Jesus a Liar?

- Philip Schaff (Historian) - “How, in the name of logic, common sense, and experience, could an imposter - that is a deceitful, selfish, depraved man - have invented, and consistently maintained from the beginning to end, the purest and noblest character known in history with the most perfect air of truth and reality? How could He have conceived and successfully carried out a plan of unparalleled beneficence, moral magnitude, and sublimity, and sacrificed His own life for it, in the face of the strongest prejudices of His people and age?”



# Outline

- Is Jesus a Legend?
- What Did Jesus Say About Himself?
- Was Jesus a Liar?
- Was Jesus a Lunatic?

# Was Jesus a Lunatic?

- “If Jesus wasn’t a liar, but actually thought He was God, that makes Him a lunatic.”
  - Many people throughout history have claimed divine status but were obviously mad
    - Jim Jones, David Koresh, David Berg, Hobart, Freeman
  - Men of this nature...
    - Are usually locked up as not to hurt themselves
    - Are eventually recognized as crazy
    - Influence fizzles away over a short period of time

# Was Jesus a Lunatic?

- Jesus does not fit the character of a lunatic
  - He showed none of the symptoms of madness common to people with mental disorders: paranoia, schizophrenia, rash and impulsive, etc.
  - His madness would have been most evident on the cross, yet he was self-assured and in complete control of His senses
  - His teaching/advice was always profound, insightful, intelligent, and reliable
  - His teaching has set countless people free from mental illness, drugs, and alcohol

# Was Jesus a Lunatic?

- Psychiatrist J. T. Fisher - "If you were to take the sum total of all authoritative articles ever written by the most qualified of psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental hygiene - if you were to combine them and refine them, and cleave out the excess verbiage - if you were to take the whole of the meat and none of the parsley, and if you were to have these unadulterated bits of pure scientific knowledge concisely expressed by the most capable of living poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of the Sermon on the Mount. And it would suffer immeasurably through comparison. For nearly 2,000 years the Christian world has been holding in its hands the complete answer to its restless and fruitless yearnings. Here ... rests the blueprint for successful human life with optimism, mental health, and contentment."

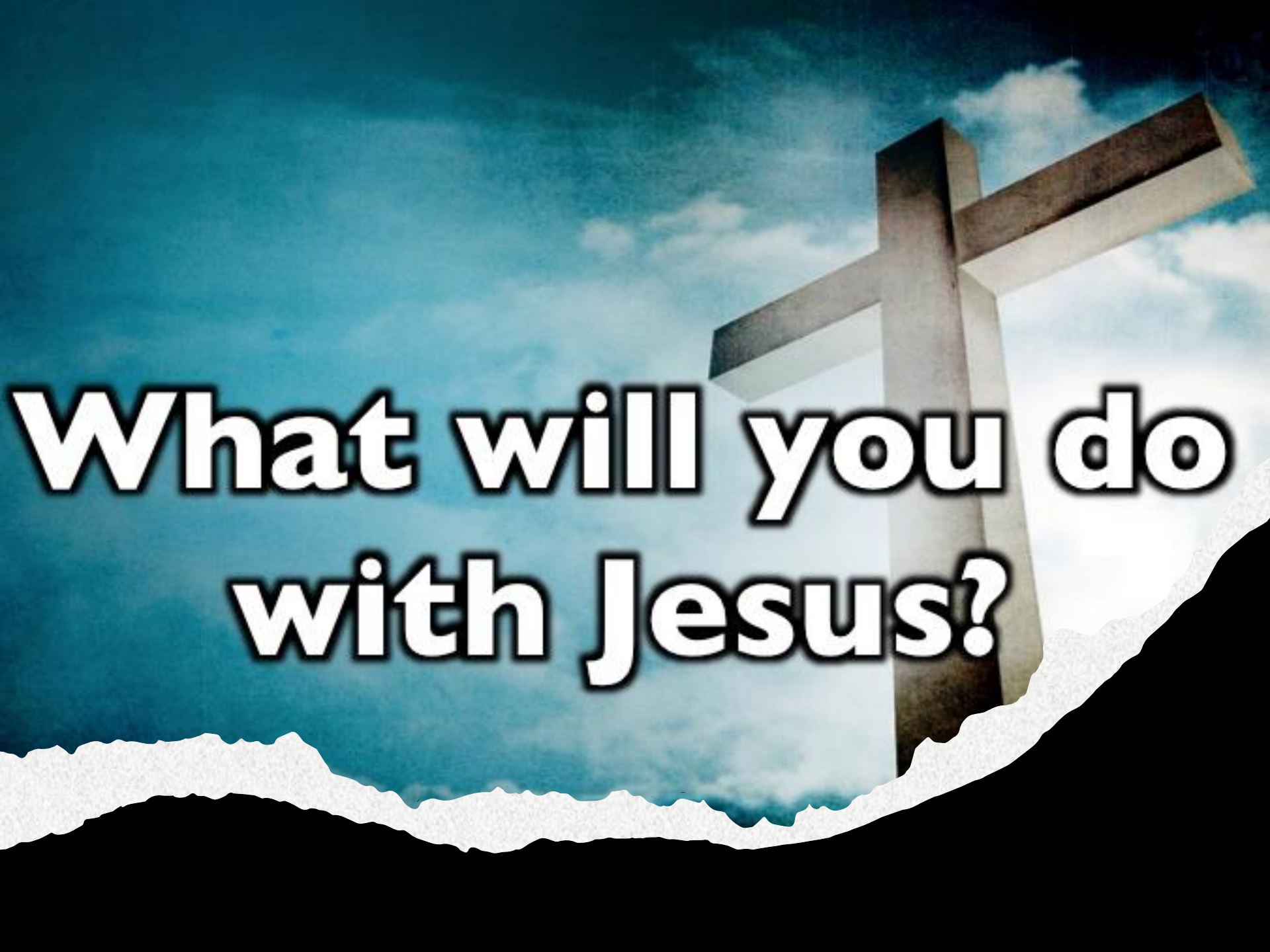
# Outline

- Is Jesus a Legend?
- What Did Jesus Say About Himself?
- Was Jesus a Liar?
- Was Jesus a Lunatic?
- Is Jesus Lord?

# Is Jesus Lord?

- This is the only alternative left

- He can't have merely been a "good person" or merely a prophet – He claimed otherwise
- C. S. Lewis – "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

A wooden cross stands against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is positioned on the right side of the frame. The bottom of the image features a jagged, torn paper effect, revealing a black background underneath. The text "What will you do with Jesus?" is overlaid in the center-left area.

**What will you do  
with Jesus?**

# Is Jesus Lord?

- If Jesus is the Son of God, you must:
  - Believe
    - **John 8:24b** – “...unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
  - Repent
    - **Luke 13:3b** – “...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”
  - Confess
    - **Matt 10:32-33** – “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”
  - Be Baptized
    - **Mark 16:16a** – “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved.”