

Matthew 16:13-17

October 27 , 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro –

For ordering his favorite beverage on demand, Lyndon B. Johnson had four buttons installed in the Oval Office labeled "coffee," "tea," "Coke," and what?

- A. Fresca
- B. V8
- C. Yoo-Hoo
- D. A&W

In Matthew 16, Jesus asks the ultimate question--and everything depends on it.

How you answer this question has an impact on how you live your daily life and your ultimate destiny.

16:13 - When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

"Who do men say that I am?"

v.14 - They said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Both Jesus and John...

- **Preached about repentance and the kingdom of God**
- **Criticized the religious leaders of the day**
- **Baptized other people**

Some said Jesus was Elijah.

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- **Their ministries both start at the Jordan River**
- **Both raised a widow's son from the dead**
- **Both fed large groups with a small amount of food (Elijah fed 100 men with a few barley loaves and there was food left over. Jesus fed 5,000...)**
- **Both of them healed lepers (Naaman...)**
- **Both gave sight to the blind...**
- **Tell story from 2 Kings 6... (Syrians... Samaria... Feast...)**

Malachi 4:5 - "I'll send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and awesome day of the LORD."

Some said Jesus was Jeremiah:

- **Neither of them was married--unusual for the time.**
- **Both were opposed by the religious leaders**

If you ask people today who Jesus is--what will they say?

- **Great teacher... Great example... A prophet**

The Jehovah's Witnesses – “Michael the Archangel is none other than the only begotten Son of God, now Jesus Christ.” (*New Heavens and New Earth, pp. 30-31*)

The Mormons – “Lucifer the son of the morning is our elder brother, and the brother of Jesus.” (*Apostle B. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, pp. 163-164.*) “Jesus was married at Cana of Galilee and had many wives, including Mary and Martha, he also had many children.” (*Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, pp. 345-346; Vol. 2, pp. 79-82; Vol. 4, pp. 259-260; The Seer, p. 172.*)

Islam – “Jesus was no more than a mortal whom Allah favored and made an example to the Israelites.” (*Sura 43:59*) Jesus was a prophet, but He wasn't crucified on a cross. He'll return, but He isn't God.

Hinduism – Jesus is just one of millions of gods.

Buddhism - Jesus was an enlightened man and wise teacher.

New Age Movement - Jesus was a wise moral teacher.

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Mark 6:3 - Then they scoffed, “He’s *just a carpenter*, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon.”

John 6:42 - They said, “Isn’t this Jesus, *the son of Joseph*? We know his father and mother. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

John 9:24 - They said. "We know this man is *a sinner*."

John 8:41 - They replied, “We aren’t *illegitimate children!*”

John 10:20 - Many of them said, "*He is demon-possessed and raving mad.*"

On the positive side...

Simeon: "My eyes have seen *Your salvation*... He is a light to reveal God to the nations." (Luke 2:30-32)

Nathaniel: “Rabbi, You're the Son of God—the King of Israel!” (John 1:49)

The Woman at the Well: "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:29)

Martha: "I believe that You're the Messiah, the Son of God (John 11:27)

The Roman Centurion: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39)

Thomas: "My Lord and my God!" (John 10:28)

All these different opinions bring us to the ultimate question.

Jesus said to them, "But who do *you* say that I am?"

v.16 - Simon Peter answered and said, “You're the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood hasn't revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

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There's a common fallacy that you hear a lot these days. It goes like this:

- **The Bible doesn't teach that Jesus is God**
- **Jesus never claimed to be God**
- **That's something that Christians began to teach years later.**

You can remember them by remembering the word **HANDS**.

H = Honor

Jesus accepts Honor only due to God.

A = Attributes

Jesus possesses Attributes only God possesses.

God is eternal.

God is unchangeable.

You can't change perfection!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

N = Names

Jesus is given Names that can only be given to God.

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, Moses said when they ask who sent me, what should I say and God said: ***"Tell the children of Israel, I Am, has sent me to you."***

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In John 8, Jesus said, "If you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins... When you lift up the Son of Man then you will know that I am... Most assuredly I say to you that before Abraham was, I am." Then they took up stones to throw at Him.

Jesus is also called: Jehovah, The Alpha and the Omega, King of kings and Lord of lords, Savior and God.

D = Deeds

Jesus does Deeds that only God can do.

Jesus did miracles that only God can do.

When Jesus healed the paralytic, He told him, "**Your sins are forgiven.**"

S = Seat

Jesus: "The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son."

John 14:9 - "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father."

John 10:30 - "I and the Father are one."

C. S. Lewis, *was a professor at Cambridge University and once an agnostic, He wrote:*

“I'm 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's the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he'd 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.

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But let's not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He hasn't left that open to us. He didn't intend to.”

At the end of the gospel of Matthew, we'll find one more question that you need to answer: *"What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?"*

- You don't become a Christian by joining a church... Or believing that Jesus was a good teacher... Or trying to follow His teachings

Jesus - "If you don't believe that I Am, you will die in your sins."

Believing that Jesus was a good teacher and trying to follow His teachings doesn't make anyone a Christian.

Jesus didn't die on the cross as an example--to say, live your life this way and you'll go to heaven.

He died on the cross as a substitute... **"Christ died for our sins."**