

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Mighty God

12/9/18 – Pastor Randy

Last week we began a study of Isaiah 9:6 in order to answer the “Why Jesus?” question. We learned that Jesus is the “Wonderful Counselor” who came to rescue Israel and the world from the darkness of our spiritual deception and into the light of the truth that transcends our perspectives in truth.

Today’s answer to the question, “Why Jesus?”: Because He is the Mighty God!

Many more people struggle with the deity of Jesus than they do with the humanity of Jesus. A lot of people are willing to acknowledge that Jesus was a real historical person, but they fail to recognize or accept his deity. The result is that they fail to honor Him and worship Him as they ought.

The ‘Barna Group’ posted an article on their website with the following research (Barna.com April 1,2015):

Most adults believe Jesus was God (56%), while 26% say he was only a religious or spiritual leader like Mohammed or the Buddha.

Millennials are the only generation among whom fewer than half believe Jesus was God (48%). 35% say Jesus was merely a religious or spiritual leader.

The most disturbing trend is the increasing number of Christian clergy – mostly confined to mainline denominations – do not affirm the deity of Christ.

I am going to answer the “What?” question. Then I will answer the “So what?” question followed by the “Now what?” question.

I. What is the truth about the person of Jesus?

A. The explicit statements of the disciples and NT authors

We have some explicit statements made by Jesus’ disciples & the NT authors came to acknowledge His divine nature.

John communicated his belief in Jesus divine nature when he wrote, In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Peter, in his second letter identifies Jesus as “our God and Savior.”

In John 20:28, we read that Thomas called Jesus, “My Lord and my God”.

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Mighty God

12/9/18 – Pastor Randy

The case for Jesus deity does not rest on a few statements where Jesus is referred to by the Greek word for God (Θεός), but instead it is established by a myriad of explicit and implicit statements identifying Jesus with the God of the OT.

B. Jesus self-identified as God

In John 8 the Jewish leaders were angry at Jesus for claiming he had the power to grant eternal life. “You act like you are greater than Abraham”. Jesus replied, “Before Abraham was born, I am.” Jesus didn’t say, “I was born” as we would expect but he said, “I am”. The reason the leaders attempted to stone him was because they understood he was identifying himself as God who revealed himself as “I am” in Isaiah 40-55. Jesus continually used this expression as a means of self-identification. In John 18 we read that when a battalion of 600 men came to arrest Jesus in the garden, He asked, “Who have you come for – I am.” And the soldiers fell to the ground. Why? Because his claim to be God was accompanied by the power of God.

In John 10 Jesus said, “I and the father are one.” That this was a clear statement of his equality with God the Father is evidenced by the fact that they immediately picked up stones to kill him for committing blasphemy.

B. Jesus claimed for himself what is only true of God.

Jesus claimed that he existed with the Father, and shared His glory, before the world was created. (John 17:5) Consider those claims in light of the fact that God through the prophet Isaiah emphatically declared that he would not share his glory with another!! (Isaiah 42:8 & 48:11)

Jesus claimed the power to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:2-8)

He claimed the right to grant eternal life or eternal damnation. (John 6:40)

He claimed that to have seen Him was to have seen the Father. (John 13:9)

He claimed to be able to answer prayer. (John 14:13,14)

He claimed to be the only one who knew the Father and that only He could reveal the Father to others. (Matt. 11:27)

He claimed for himself absolute authority. He said, “All authority is given to me on heaven and on earth! He said that obeying his words would lead to the Father’s love and to eternal life. (Matt. 28:18; John 8:51, John 14:23)

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Mighty God

12/9/18 – Pastor Randy

Beyond all of this, there is a mountain of evidence that points to the reality of Jesus' divine nature. In the NT, both the attributes and prerogatives that belonged solely to Yahweh are attributes which now belong to Jesus as well.

Richard Bauckham makes the point that in the Jewish religious worldview, God was identifiable by three basic attributes. God alone is: Creator of all things, sovereign ruler of all things, and worthy of man's worship. He then goes on to show that in the NT these three attributes belong to Jesus.

(See *Jesus and the God of Israel* by Richard Bauckham)

1) *Jesus is the creator of the universe:*

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." - John 1:2

"all things have been created by him and for him." - Colossians 1:16

"through whom also he made the universe." - Hebrews 1:2

2) *Jesus is the sovereign ruler of the universe.* Jesus demonstrated his sovereignty over the created order when he silenced the storm, cursed the fig tree, and walked on the water. The author of Hebrews writes that Jesus "upholds all things by the power of His word". Paul wrote that before Jesus "every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord". Peter tells us that Jesus "has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."

3) *Jesus was worshipped as God.*

On a few occasions Jesus was worshipped by men, and he said nothing to deter them. The fact that Jesus condoned this behavior shows he considered it appropriate. God the Father commands the angels to worship Jesus (Hebrews 1:6) In Revelation 5 we have a picture of a multitude of angels worshipping Jesus.

The prerogatives that belonged to God alone in the OT, are revealed in the NT as also belonging to Jesus. In the OT, God (Yahweh) is the only one who heals and forgives sin. In the NT Jesus does as well (Acts 3:12-16; 9:34). In the OT, God (Yahweh) is the only one in whom God's people are called to place

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Mighty God

12/9/18 – Pastor Randy

their trust. In the NT we are called to place our trust in Jesus as well as God the Father. Prayer is never addressed to a mere human but it is to Jesus.

Jesus and God (Yahweh) are spoken of in ways that are interchangeable. One of the most striking instances of this is found in Romans 8 where Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of God" and the "Spirit of Christ". This kind of language is never applied to a mere human person anywhere in Bible; OT or NT!! The NT authors (especially Paul) not only ascribe to Jesus the title "Lord", but do so while citing OT texts where Yahweh is "Lord" and applying them to Jesus as "Lord"!!

I have answered the "what?" question. What does the scripture reveal about the nature of Jesus? It reveals that he was both human and divine. He was truly God incarnate; in Jesus, God became flesh and lived among us.

Now the "So what?" question. Why is this important? For a few reasons.

1. If Jesus was not God, then Jesus doesn't deserve to be taken seriously and neither do the rest of the NT authors. One of the most absurd notions is found in theological liberalism which foolishly suggests that we can reject the supernatural aspects of Jesus life and His divine claims while still holding onto him as an example of love and justice and morality. If Jesus was just a godly man rather than The God-Man, then his words and the whole NT have no credibility! If the NT is not credible in what it says about Jesus divine nature than it is not credible in its assertion that God's Kingdom has begun through Jesus and in its the promise of the future culmination of God's kingdom at the second coming of Christ. Our efforts are in vain if Jesus is not coming again!

In his famous book [Mere Christianity](#), C.S. Lewis makes this statement, "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 a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool 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."

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Mighty God

12/9/18 – Pastor Randy

2. A strong conviction of Jesus deity compels our trust, allegiance, and reverence for Jesus. In other words, it compels us to worship Him. If Jesus was only a really great man, he would compel my interest but not my allegiance!

3. It is critical to our understanding of the atonement. It explains how God has redeemed us from our sins and reveals the depths of His love for us by the fact that GOD HIMSELF CAME FOR US TO SAVE US. In giving His Son, God did not just give us someone, He gave us Himself!!

We needed a savior who was both divine and human because only a divine and human Savior could bridge the chasm between us and God that was created by our sin. My favorite expression at Christmas time is: That the incarnation-crucifixion-resurrection event is the grandest bridge ever built, spanning the deepest chasm ever known, at the highest price ever paid, motivated by the most extravagant love ever displayed!

III. Now What?!?

1. **Repent** – Jesus, the Mighty God, is coming back again in judgement. When Paul was preaching in Athens he said, “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus. Peter indicated that Jesus second coming is delayed due to His love and but is patience, “not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”.

As “Mighty” God Jesus is opposed to all sin and evil and he is coming again to judge all who have not repented of their idolatry and turned to Him.

2. **Trust him** – If you have repented and have been reconciled to God, the fact that he is Mighty God is the most comforting word you could ever hear! His might is able to protect His children. He uses His might to strengthen His children. No weapon formed against us shall prosper! If God – the Mighty God be for us – who can be against us? We are more than conquerors through Him, the ultimate conqueror, who loved us. The triumphant one is the one who always leads his people in triumph.

In Isaiah 40:28-31 the Lord lets us know that He is mighty for our benefit.

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Mighty God

12/9/18 – Pastor Randy

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

3. Go with and for Him – When Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples, he encouraged them with these words: I will be with you always, even to the end. Then you know what Jesus did? He left!!! But he didn't really leave because he sent the third person of the Godhead – the Holy Spirit. The reason Jesus said you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you is because the Holy Spirit is also “Mighty God”. When you go to work tomorrow, Mighty God is in with you and in you. When you go to school, Mighty God is with you and in you. When you go to the store, when you go to your neighbor, everywhere you go...MIGHTY GOD goes with you and is in you."