



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Almost every major religion today acknowledges the existence of Jesus Christ. Even our calendar years center up on this historical figure, with the use of A.D. & B.C.

Here is a question I would like you to consider. In fact it is the same question that Jesus Christ, at one time, asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” Before you consider answering the question let me say this, **Jesus Christ was either insane, a lunatic and deceiver, or He is who He claims to be. It is impossible for Him to be a good man or teacher if indeed He was a liar and a deceiver.**

The answer to the question, “Who is Jesus Christ?” **must be revealed to you by God Himself** as stated in Matthew 16:17 **or you just will not know!**

Now before you answer “Who is Jesus?”, let me tell you who some other men and women thought Him to be. Some said He was John the Baptist, Elijah, or that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life (Luke 9:19). But Jesus asked, “*What about you, who do you say that I am?*” (Luke 9:20). **Why is this question of such a vital nature?** God has stated that in all the world salvation is to be found in no one else but His Son (Acts 4:12). To have a faulty view of Jesus Christ could have the most serious eternal consequences. When a man asked one day what must he do to be saved, the apostle Paul replied, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved...*” (Acts 16:31). Believing in the Scripture does not mean just acknowledging some mental credence. **To rely upon, trust and commit ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ we must understand who He is. First of all, He is the Lord.** The word “Lord” implies Master, Ruler, the one who has the right to control your life. This word also implies deity. **Secondly, He is Jesus.** The word “Jesus” means “God is salvation” and implies Jesus’ saving work. Savior implies “one who rescues another.” It is very much like a person who rescues another person from drowning, so that they might live. So, Jesus rescues people from perishing so that they might have eternal life. **Thirdly, He is “Christ” a “King”** (Luke 23:2). “Christ” is a word that means the Messiah, the “anointed” to rule. The Bible says to enter His Kingdom we must be “**converted,**” which means we must turn around, change our direction, change our course by coming out from under the jurisdiction, control, and possession of the kingdom of Darkness (Colossians 1:13-14). The apostle Paul describes this as **turning from** darkness **to** light, and from Satan to God so that we might receive the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 26:18). This is another way of describing “repentance.” **Repentance is not man’s self effort to clean up his**

life, rather repentance is to recognize one's sin, to hate it and turn one's back on it by fleeing to Christ.

The Scriptures teach that we are in a conflict between two kingdoms and two kings (Matthew 6:24; Colossians 1:13-14). In times past we have all followed the god of this world in the kingdom of darkness (See Ephesians 2:1-5). The question is, are you willing to give up and give control of your life to Jesus Christ? Are you now willing to follow the King (Jesus) and accept His sacrifice for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 5:31)? To "follow" means to come or go after; move behind and in the same direction; to come or go with; to accept the guidance or leadership of; to adhere to the cause or principles of; to be governed by; obey; comply with (John 10:27-28; Romans 10:9-10, 13).

Many people feel they can ride the fence. That is to say "I'm not serving Jesus Christ, but I'm certainly not going to serve the devil." The Bible does not teach this. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other..." (Matthew 6:24). You cannot be saved from what you deliberately want to hold on to.

What Kingdom are you in? What master are you serving? Jesus Christ or the god of this world (Satan)? A kingdom in the Bible was the realm in which either Satan or God was in control. One's kingdom is the people over which one has authority or rule. Through Jesus' sacrificial death He has become the means by which your sins may be forgiven. Would you turn to Him today for newness of life, by confessing with your mouth, Jesus as your Lord (Master and Savior) and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead to secure your salvation? (Romans 10:9-10)

The word "gospel" means "good news" and carries the basic facts of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection as the means of obtaining forgiveness of your sins and right standing before a Holy God (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus' command was that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be preached to all the nations (Luke 24:47).

Would you consider changing your mind and turning to Him so that you might discover who Jesus Christ really is?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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Questions

1 Read Matthew 16:13-17 (NIV).

“¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”

- Matthew 16:13-17 (NIV)

Who do people say that Jesus Christ is?

- A. a prophet
- B. John the Baptist come back from the dead
- C. Elijah
- D. Jeremiah

2 Read Matthew 16:16-17 (NIV).

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- Matthew 16:16-17 (NIV)

Who is Jesus Christ?

- A. a good man
- B. a leader
- C. the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the Living God

3 Read Acts 4:12 (NIV).

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” - Acts 4:12 (NIV)

Salvation is only found in:

- A. my peculiar church
- B. reciting the Lord's Prayer
- C. Jesus Christ (John 14:6 NIV)

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” - John 14:6 (NIV)

4 Read Acts 2:36.

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” - Acts 2:36

Jesus is “Lord and Christ” implies:

- A. He is Master.
- B. He is Ruler.
- C. He is King.
- D. To be in His Kingdom you must accept His Rule and Reign.

5 Read Luke 24:47 (NIV).

“and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” - Luke 24:47 (NIV)

Would you consider changing your mind and calling on Him so that you might discover who Jesus Christ really is? Jesus said, Come Follow Me! (Luke 9:27; John 21:19)

“But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.” - Luke 9:27

“This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.” - John 21:19

Answer Key

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