

# Who Is Jesus

## Matthew 1:21

If I were to take a poll and ask people “who is Jesus”, I feel that I’d get a variety of answers. Some might say that he was a man in history that was charismatic with a great following. Others might say the he was a great teacher that claimed to be the son of God. Still others say he was Son of God - the resurrected Savior. If you were to ask that question some 2000 years ago you might hear “which Jesus?” as Jesus was a common name like James or John is today. So scripture often qualifies Jesus as Jesus of Nazareth. In our discussion today we will attempt to answer the question of who is Jesus by looking at what he did.

Fact – Jesus was born. Fiction – Jesus was born on Dec. 25. This was a date that was set by the Catholic Church around the tenth century and has become an accepted tradition among men today. Most likely Jesus was born in the spring of the year as shepherds were in the fields tending to their flocks. They did not do this in the winter months. Instead in the winter they kept their sheep in protected shelters waiting for spring.

But Jesus was born and is detailed for us in the gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary’s conception was by the Holy Spirit and that she had not been unfaithful with another man. Then he said *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Here we get the first glimpse of who Jesus is; he is one that will save his people. Later, Paul in his sermon at Antioch of Pisidia would refer to Jesus as the Savior. *Acts 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:* This should not have been a surprise to the Jews of that day as it had been foretold many years before by the prophets. Notice our passage says that Jesus shall save his people from their sins. Who are his people? In a sense they are the Jews. The Jews were called the people of God because he had chosen them to himself, and regarded them as His special and beloved people. But in the New Testament era, his people were expanded to the Gentile world. Christians are the people of Christ. *Galatians 3:27-29 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

The Christian is noted as a peculiar person that is zealous in his work for the Lord. *Titus 2:13-14 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (14) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

**Our text also tells us that Jesus came to save his people from their sins.** This was the primary business of Jesus in coming and dying. It was not to save people in their sins, but from their sins. Sinners could not be happy in heaven. The saving design was to save his people from sin. Notice the commentary that Jesus said of himself when he talked with the tax collector Zacchaeus. *Luke 19:9-10 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Some years later the apostle Paul would learn this lesson and emphasized it to young preacher Timothy. *1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* The lost of Luke 19:10 are called “sinners” by Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15.

In the process of bring salvation to man, Jesus was what we might call a “street person.” He didn’t even have a place to lay his head. **Luke 9:58** *And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.* Worldly possession had little meaning to Jesus as his focus was on his mission of doing the Father’s will of saving the souls of mankind. You see, his treasure was not on things of this world but rather in heaven.

So who was Jesus? He was a homeless person that spent time with social rejects like the blind, crippled and deaf. He was even accused by the Jewish elite of associating with the sinners and befriended the woman caught in adultery. **Luke 15:1-2** *Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. (2) And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.* Notice verse 1 tells us that he drew near the publicans and sinners because they would listen to him. He was seeking out people to teach and the religious Pharisees did not fit in that category. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This is God’s grace.

Who is Jesus? He is one that was willing to give up the glories of heaven – His home – to come down to earth and intermingle with mankind for the purpose of pleasing his Father. **Philippians 2:5-8** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

He was found in the fashion of a man. We understand this as we see his humble beginning as a baby in a manger. **Luke 2:7** *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.* After his birth he has visitors. For one there were shepherds from the fields. **Luke 2:8** *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ... Luke 2:16* *And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

**Matthew 2:11** *And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.* We note too that wise men for the east came to visit Jesus, but unlike all the nativity scenes, they didn’t come to the manger where Jesus was born; instead they came to visit the child in a house sometime after his birth. Note to that at this time Jesus is called a child and not a baby. Some have thought maybe as much as two years since that was the age Herod pronounce in his mass execution of little baby boys.

Who is Jesus – He is one that is worthy of worship. Because Jesus is deity, he deserves our worship. There was a time when a centurion named Cornelius fell down at the feet of Peter and worshipped him but Peter gave a slight rebuke. **Acts 10:26** *But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.* We have a similar incident in the book of Revelation when John wanted to bow down and worshipped the feet of an angel. **Revelation 22:9** *Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

But when the man with leprosy worshipped Jesus, there was no rebuke. Jesus was worthy of worship because of who he was. **Matthew 8:2-3** *And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. (3) And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.* So the wise men were in order when they worshipped the young child Jesus.

The wise men also presented gifts to Jesus. We too need to present gifts to Jesus; not gifts of material but gifts of service. Under the old Law of Moses, the Israelites were expected to slay and offer animal sacrifices. But today we are expected to offer a living sacrifice which is described as a reasonable service when you consider what Jesus did for us. ***Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

Who is Jesus? He is the savior of mankind. ***1 Timothy 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*** We've made full circle as this is what the angel told Joseph – Jesus shall save his people.

It's worth noting that this salvation is from sin and the eternal consequences of sin. It is not from hardships or difficulties of life. Jesus in making this salvation possible suffered both physically and emotionally. The apostle Paul gave up fame and fortune to serve the Lord and this service cost him greatly. ***Philippians 3:7-8 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*** So let us understand that Jesus did not come to save us from the difficulties of life. Hardships fall on both the just and the unjust.

But he did come to make a way that you can receive forgiveness of your sins and thus be saved. ***Colossians 1:13-14 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*** Because of the rich grace of God, we can receive the forgiveness of sins and this is made possible by the blood of that Jesus shed for us. The verse also speaks of redemption, which means ransom.

Who is Jesus? He is the one that paid the ransom for your sins and made it possible for you to have a spiritual relation with his Heavenly Father, i.e. to be saved for all eternity. ***1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:***

So who is Jesus? He is our Redeemer; He is our Lord and He is our Savior. While living on earth as a man, Jesus asked this question. ***Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*** This is the question that we close with today. Instead of "Who is Jesus?" we ask "What will you do with Jesus?"

Invitation