

WHO IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Luke 22:7-23

Intro: One thing that I can certainly say about my subject this evening is that it is the most wonderful subject that anyone could possibly speak about -- the Lord Jesus Christ. Who could possibly think of a more wonderful theme, or of a more wonderful Person? Choose any other subject, or decide to talk about any other person, and they would become insignificant in comparison with our Lord.

But we might also say that there are at least two things wrong with a subject like this:

1) Most of you can answer that question. You already know who the Lord Jesus Christ is. Many of you have known Him for years, and you have read your Bible many times, careful to learn all that you could of Him.

But the other thing that is wrong is this:

2) No one could possibly answer that question adequately in the time that we have tonight. In fact, no one could do justice to such a subject if he were to devote a whole lifetime to it. But we could also say that no one could give an exhaustive answer if he had a whole lifetime in which to answer because no person on earth knows all that there is to know about our Lord.

So it is not only the most wonderful of all subjects, but it is the most incomprehensible of all subjects. We cannot fully understand and explain all that we know. Paul made a statement in his prayer in Ephesians 3 (v. 19) which he could have made about the entire Person of Christ: "to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Think of what it would mean to any one of us if we knew just twice as much as we already know about the Lord! While Paul was in a Roman prison he wrote back to the Philippian church to express the great desire of his heart at that time when he was in no way a novice: "That I may know him, . . ."

This subject is especially important as we come to the Lord's table because our Lord Himself said of this Supper, "This do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). And so, if we are to remember Him, we must think, as we come to the table, about who He is! The most complete answer we can give is that He was, and is, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And the greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ is magnified even more when we think of others we could be remembering when we come to the Lord's Table. We could think with real profit of Abraham, or of Moses, or of David, or of John the Baptist, or of the Apostle John, or of the Apostle Peter, or of the Apostle Paul.

But, when we think of any of them, what do we find out? We learn that they all point us to Christ!

About Abraham the Lord told the Jews,
Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day:
and he saw it, and was glad (John 8:56).

About Moses our Lord said,
For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me:
for he wrote of me (John 5:46).

In Luke 20:39-44 the Lord brought up Psa. 110:1 where David called Christ his Lord.

John the Baptist said of Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Earlier he had said, "He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose" (John 1:27).

The Apostle John said,
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

The Apostle Peter said in his great confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

The Apostle Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15).

So, take any of them, or anyone else you read about in the Scriptures who knew anything at all about God, and you will find that, if you think about them, they will make you think about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when we remember Him, sometimes we may remember things that we have known before; at other times there may be new things that we have learned from the Word of God. But even the old things cannot be exhausted. As we remember Him as we have known Him before, we find that what we have known becomes richer and more precious to our understanding.

But this evening, as my subject suggests, I want to think of Him as the Lord Jesus Christ -- and to think of Him by these names in relationship to His death.

I. THE LORD.

This speaks of His Deity, and also speaks of His sovereignty. It is not amazing that He would need to come because no one else could meet such a need. But it is amazing that He would

come. And yet, as He walked the roads of this earth, He did so as the Lord of glory, the eternal Son of God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

This is basic, Biblical truth. Peter expressed this in his message on the day of Pentecost when he concluded with these words,

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

Or take Paul's words in Phil. 2:5-11.

Pilate needed to be told this truth because he did not know it. The sovereign Lord responded to him in the words which we find in John 19:11.

See also John 10:17, 18.

II. JESUS.

If Lord speaks primarily of His Deity, Jesus speaks of His humanity. It was the name given to Him when He was born. Cf. Matt. 1:21.

And yet it also speaks of His Deity, as well as of His work as our Saviour. It is the NT equivalent of Joshua, which means, Jehovah is Saviour.

As Jesus He could become our Substitute. He always was the Lord, but He became Jesus in order to pay the penalty for the sins of His people.

This is the name that the writer of Hebrews uses over and over to indicate that He not only was a man while He was here on earth, but that He is still a man, the God-man, in heaven. Cf. Heb. 2:8b-10.

Finally,

III. CHRIST.

This means the anointed One, the Messiah, the One chosen and sent by God to accomplish what was necessary for our salvation.

As such He is the main theme of all of the OT. Cf. Luke 24:13-27, and then verse 44.

See what Peter said in Matt. 16:16 -- therefore, it also speaks of His Deity. And see John's words in John 20:30, 31. Here we have an emphasis on His Deity again.

Concl: As we come to the Lord's Table we come to remember Him whose name is the Lord Jesus Christ, a name which is dear to the heart of every believer. It is a name rich with truth, not only with regard to Who He is, but also indicating His mission to the earth. He came to be our Saviour.

It is a name above every other name, a name which only He can bear.

It is a name to be worshipped.

It is a name with power.

It is a name which brings blessing. Repeatedly Paul prayed for grace and peace from God, the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

We say tonight with Paul in 1 Cor. 8:6,
But to us there is but one God, the Father,
of whom are all things, and we in him;
and one Lord Jesus Christ,
by whom are all things, and we by him.

He can be no less than His Name suggests, the Lord Jesus Christ. If He should be, then He not only cannot be our Saviour, but He would need a Saviour Himself.

But He is all that His name implies, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we preach the Gospel, we speak "concerning his Son (God's Son) Jesus Christ, our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (Rom. 1:3, 4).

It is for the Lord Jesus Christ that we are looking:
For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven;
from whence also we look for the Saviour,
the Lord Jesus Christ:
Who shall change our vile body,
that it may be fashioned unto his glorious body,
according to the working whereby he is able to subdue
all things unto himself.

Let us remember Him and worship Him tonight as the Lord Jesus Christ!