

CALL to PRAYER - Thank God for music and for something to sing about

Intro - The Christian religion is accompanied by singing. We have a robust array of songs. Other religions have their chants, mantras & repeated sounds but *the most holy faith* has many psalms, hymns & spiritual songs. Christianity is set apart as a singing religion...something to sing about (cantata). We sing our message and our message is worth singing about. Our message centers around the Messiah – The Lord Jesus Christ. But who is Jesus Christ? There are common misconceptions about Jesus today just as there were common misunderstandings during His ministry 2000 yrs ago. The passage I am about to read exposes those misconceptions; but it also records a great confession of who Jesus is. Hope it is also your personal confession

Matthew 16:13-17 - Definitions 18 - Who is Jesus Christ?

THE MISCONCEPTION

1. Jesus inquires about the perception of His identity
 - a. Matthew 16:13 (It is good to know what people think about Jesus)
2. A common misperception Matthew 16:14
 - a. “a good man”.... “a great prophet” “an avatar of someone else” ...
 - b. I worked with a guy who thought Jesus was like Nelson Mandella (leader)
 - c. A lot of people are ignorant of the identity of Jesus of Nazareth
 - d. We should ask people who they think Jesus is and help clear up misconceptions
 - i. Matthew 16:15-16

THE CHRIST

- Christ = *Anointed One*. A person who had oil poured on him – to be set apart for a certain task
 - Luke 4:17-21
 - Like a prophet, priest or king...the Christ/Messiah was the promised culmination of those offices, and they prefigured the coming Anointed One
- The Christ is the chosen One (Isaiah 42:1-4) The unique and only one
 - John 10:7-8 “...All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers.” (John 14:6)
 - All other prophets/priests/kings fell short....but Jesus is “the guy” ...The Christ
- The Prophet
 - Like Moses....the Christ received God’s word face to face Deut. 18:18
 - The Christ is greater than Moses because Jesus is the Word of God
- The Priest
 - Like Aaron who was anointed, but greater than Aaron
 - The Christ was to represent the people, intercede for them....sacrifice for them
- The King
 - Like David, but greater than David & Solomon Isaiah 9:6 King of kings
- They killed Jesus because He claimed to be The Christ Matt. 26:63-68

THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

- The One & Only Christ is God's Only Begotten Son
 - God has a Son Proverbs 30:4 Hebrews 1:5
- The Son is equal to the Father
 - John 5:18
 - John 5:23 1 John 2:22-23
 - The only way to honor God the Father is through His Son
 - John 14:6
- The Son is subordinate to the Father
 - The Son came to do the Father's will (Heb. 10:5, 7 – body prepared...book written...do will)
 - To be about His Father's business John 6:38
 - The Father sent the Son (His Christ) to accomplish a task
 - John 17:4
- The Son obeyed the Father, and is loved by the Father
 - John 10:17 John 15:10 (*"...I have kept My Father's commandment and abide in His love."*)
 - "This is My beloved Son, with Him I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17)
 - The Anointed Son is who the Father is pleased with
- Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God
 - In mythologies the false gods had sonsbut myths/fables (Hercules, Perseus...)
 - Psalm 96:5 (Psalm 115:5-7)
 - Jesus is declared to be the Son by:
 - Miraculous birth (Luke 1:35) Miraculous life (John 5:36; 10:38)
 - Substitutionary death (Matt. 27:54)
 - Glorious resurrection Rom. 1:4

JESUS

- ❖ His name is full of meaning and purpose
 - Matthew 1:21 His name conveys His mission 1 Tim. 1:15
 - Galatians 4:4-5

LORD

- The most basic of Christian confessions is that Jesus Christ is Lord
 - Romans 10:9
 - Christians confess that Jesus is The Christ, The Son of the Living God
 - If this is your confession they thank God for His grace to you – Matt. 16:17
- Jesus is Lord
 - Caesar is not Lord - Jesus is LORD! Government is not God - Jesus is God
 - Allah is not great - Jesus is the Great Almighty Everlasting God
 - Philippians 2:9-11