

# FOCUSING ON JESUS – LESSON 4

By Jon Quinn

About 2,000 years ago God's Son became flesh. He was the firstborn child of a poor family and lived only about 33 years in our world. Yet no other has had the impact He has had upon our world! As bad as things sometimes get, things would be far worse if not for Jesus!

Jesus once asked His apostles, *"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"* They told Jesus of the opinions held about Him and then Jesus asked another question, *"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man...Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* Matthew 16:13-16.

What is your opinion of Jesus? Why does His name invoke such love in some while exciting such hatred in others? The fact is this: Jesus was much more than a simple Galilean carpenter.

## THE PROMISED ONE

The prophets had foretold of a Messiah. He would undertake the most important rescue mission of all to secure redemption from sin. There were over 300 prophecies made about Him hundreds of years before His birth. Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies. Not even one failed. It had been prophesied that He would enter our world by a miraculous birth, having no human father. This event would take place in a small village called Bethlehem.

*Isaiah 7:14-Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

*Micah 5:2-"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

*Matthew 1:22-25-So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

*Matthew 2:1-6-Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "*

He would be a descendant of Jesse, the father of David. There is much prophesied about His ministry, but perhaps it is all best summed up by the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 11:1-5-There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

This Mighty King and Humble Servant would be slain for the people. Even as He suffered, they would mock Him as they cast lots for His clothing, not knowing that it was for them He was giving His life!

*Psalm 22:11-18-Be not far from Me, for trouble is near; For there is none to help. 12 Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. 13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*

*Isaiah 53:1-8-Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.*

John 19:23-24-*Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. 24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."*

*Therefore, the soldiers did these things.*

But death would not be the end. He would prosper and receive glory and power. He would live again!

Psalm 16:8-11-*I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Isaiah 53:10-12-*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

Luke 24:4-8-*And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " 8 And they remembered His words.*

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises. There simply is no provision for redemption apart from God's Anointed One.

### JESUS' CLAIMS

Jesus never intended for you to think of Him simply as a great philosopher. He made claims concerning Himself that leave us with only two options: either He was an insane liar, or He is who He claimed to be. We believe that His claims are true.

Jesus claimed to have existed before His conception and birth. He claimed to be eternal and equal with God.

John 5:16-18-*For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." 18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

John 8:57-59-*Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

John 10:29-33-*I and My Father are one." 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

John 17:5-*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

He taught that He was the only way to God as the light of the world and that He had the power to forgive sins.

John 8:12-*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

John 14:6-*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Luke 5:24-*But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."*

He claimed to have been given all authority by God and that one day He would judge every person who had ever lived. He said that even the angels were subject to Him.

Matthew 25:34-*Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Matthew 25:41-*"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Matthew 25:46-*"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

*Matthew 26:53-54-Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"*

*Matthew 28:18-20-And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

He referred to Himself as the Resurrection and the Life. His proof would be that He would rise from His own tomb on the third day.

*John 11:25-Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

*Mark 9:31-For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."*

Obviously, we are not talking about someone who was simply a good human being and nothing more. The only choices are to either dismiss Jesus as a deceiver or to accept Him as God's Son. He left us no middle ground between the two.

## JESUS' MISSION

Jesus came to fulfill God's plan to redeem humanity. He knew exactly what would happen and how He would be slain. In this we see the supreme example of love.

*2 Corinthians 8:9-For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

*Philippians 2:5-9-Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*

Jesus said that He came down out of heaven to do His Father's will. Jesus was faithful in this, even when God's will, meant yielding His own.

*John 6:38-For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

*Matthew 26:39-He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He knew our need and came to bring hope.

*Luke 19:10-for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

The Lord was born into our world to be a King, though He makes it quite clear that His kingdom is not physical, but spiritual.

*John 18:33-37-Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this about Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

The Son of God came to die for the world. As He approached the time of His crucifixion He would not avoid it because it was for this purpose that He came.

*John 12:27-28-"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."*

## DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

The central fact of the gospel is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day following rose from the dead.

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4-Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures*

Since this is such a crucial point in our study, perhaps it would be best to just open your Bible and read thoughtfully the following passages:

DEATH OF JESUS MARK 15:22-39; HIS BURIAL MARK 15:46-47; HIS RESURRECTION! MARK 16:1-8.

God has said that our sins demand death. He is absolutely holy and righteous and He cannot merely ignore our sins by pretending that they never happened. But He could substitute His own willing, righteous Son to pay our debt with His own death. Now that this has been accomplished, each one of us has a decision to make: either to accept this great gift of God and the responsibilities and rewards which accompany it, or reject it and face eternal death ourselves which is what we deserved to begin with.

*Romans 3:26-to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*Romans 6:23-For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### LORD AND SAVIOR!

Jesus is presented to us as both Lord and Savior. There is no indication in the Bible that He will be a person's savior who has not accepted His lordship over his or her life. This means that we must obey Jesus as Lord as we trust Him to save. Jesus Himself has gone on record on this very point. Accepting Jesus' lordship means that we obey Him.

*Luke 6:46-"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"*

*John 12:26-If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*

*John 14:15-"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

*John 14:21-He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

Accepting Jesus as savior means we have hope in Him.

*Matthew 1:21-And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

*Philippians 3:20-21-For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

### CONCLUSION

Jesus saves those that obey Him.

*Hebrews 5:9-And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*

Jesus is the hope of the world. He is much more than a simple Galilean carpenter/preacher and none of us are ready to leave this world until we have accepted that fact and acted upon it.

LESSON #5 is entitled "ETERNITY AND MAN". We will examine the differences between temporal, material things and eternal, spiritual things. We will see why it is such a mistake to ignore our spiritual needs and look at the judgment to come.

## QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FOUR

### THE PROMISED ONE

About how many prophecies were made about the Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of these did Jesus fail to fulfill? \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a prophecy about Jesus and tell how it was fulfilled. Feel free to use one of the examples cited in the lesson or another of your own choosing. \_\_\_\_\_

What enabled the prophets to foretell with 100% accuracy 2 Peter 1:20-21? \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS' CLAIMS

Did Jesus say He was the way to God or that there were other ways as well John 14:6? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did some want to kill Jesus John 10:31-33? \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS' MISSION

The lesson gave at least four main points about Jesus' mission. What are they Luke 19:10; John 6:38; 12:27,28; 18:37?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

### DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION

What are the facts of the gospel that are of first importance 1 Corinthians 15:3-4? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Jesus' resurrection declare about Jesus ROMANS 1:4? \_\_\_\_\_

### LORD AND SAVIOUR!

Fill in the blanks: Hebrews 5:9. *And having been \_\_\_\_\_, He became the author of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ to all who \_\_\_\_\_.*