



## THE CHRIST, TEACHER, PROPHET, FRIEND, LORD, SHEPHERD, BRIDEGROOM

JEFF HOOVER - MAY 24, 2015 - EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Spiritual Maturity**...Knowing who you are,  
what you're here for, and how life in the kingdom of God works!

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."  
~ A.W. Tozer

Matt 16:13–23 NIV

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> "**But what about you?**" he asked. "**Who do you say I am?**"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.** <sup>18</sup> **And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** <sup>19</sup> **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**" <sup>20</sup> Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.**"

## The Christ

### - Introspection of Biblical Proportions..."Who do you say I am?"

- As a people, we are in a **season of preparation**. We know that we are being prepared for "the return of Jesus." We also know it is not **mostly** about predicting the future, storing up food, or building a church structure.
- **Most of the preparation is happening at the heart level..."Who has your heart?"** We know from the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament, synthesized down by Jesus to two commandments in the New Testament, that it's mostly about relationship; first with loving God, then loving each other.
- **All of Me...**When we are instructed by Jesus to love God with all our "heart, mind, soul, and strength," it seems clear that God can and should be known in all His "beauty." Another way of saying this is, "There's more to Jesus than you see at first glance."

- Over the next couple months, we want to **grow** in our ability to articulate who Jesus is to us, individually, as well as corporately. **Who do YOU say Jesus is** as...the **Christ...Teacher...Prophet...Friend...Lord...Shepherd...and Bridegroom?**

- **Jesus, the Christ** (*No, NOT Jesus' last name!*)

- The word “**Christ**” comes from the Greek word **christos**, which means “anointed.” The Hebrew equivalent is the word **mashiach**, which means **messiah**, “the anointed one of God.”
- **To be anointed**, literally, is to have sacred oil poured over your head because God has chosen you for a specific task. Priests and kings were anointed. Some prophets were anointed.
- Even though priests and prophets were anointed, the term “**anointed one**,” or “**the Lord’s anointed one**” was most often used to refer to a king. David often referred to King Saul this way, even when he was being threatened with his life...

He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’S anointed (*mashiach*), or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed (*mashiach*) of the LORD.” (1 Sam 24:6 NIV)

- There are times in the Old Testament when God would tell a prophet to **anoint a man to be king**. When this happened, it was as if the Lord Himself had ordained the prophet and given him the authority to act as his representative.
- There are “**messianic hints**” throughout the whole Bible, where the word messiah is used to describe a king who would come in the future; a king that would eventually rule the whole earth! In Genesis, when Abraham is blessing each of his sons and telling him of his future, he says to his son Judah. (Gen 49:10)
- The **clearest prophecy of a coming messianic king** comes from David’s time. David wanted to build a “house” for the Lord, but that task was given to his son, Solomon. The Lord did promise David He would build a “house” for him, which meant that He would establish a royal family line through him. Out of David’s family line would come a king whose kingdom would have no end...

<sup>11</sup> For when you die and join your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, one of your sons, and I will make his kingdom strong. <sup>12</sup> He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for me. And I will secure his throne forever. <sup>13</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my favor from him as I took it from the one who ruled before you. <sup>14</sup> I will confirm him as king over my house and my kingdom for all time, and his throne will be secure forever.” (1 Chr 17:11–14 NLT-SE)

- This prophecy is said to have a double fulfillment. It was first fulfilled in **Solomon**, who did build the temple, but disappointingly disobeyed God by amassing a great fortune and marrying foreign wives (a lot of them!). But this prophecy also looks forward to a “son” who will have a “kingdom for all time.” This is the birthplace for the messianic prophecies that speak of the “**son of David**” and the coming messianic king.
- **The gospel’s proclamation of Jesus as “the Christ” came with the expected fanfare.** When a king of great power came on the scene, the surrounding kingdoms sent representatives bearing gifts to show their desire to establish a friendship with the future leader. This is what was happening in Matthew 2, when the wise men came to bring gifts to Jesus at his birth.
- This was also the fulfillment of Isaiah 60 and Psalm 72, which describe the coming of a great king and representatives from every nation would **come bearing gifts**. (Psa 72:10–11)
- We see another picture of Jesus as king when he rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. This is the fulfillment of a prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, the **triumphal entry of the messianic king**. (Zech 9:9 NLT-SE)
- And, during Jesus’ trial, the main question he is asked is, “**Are you the king of the Jews.**” He shocked them with his answer...

<sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.” <sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. (Luke 23:2–3 NIV)

- The question we want answered is this, “**What are the implications of Jesus as King?**” When on earth, most of what Jesus talked about was *not* the church, but the “kingdom of God.” The people of the kingdom of God are those who become “voluntary lovers of God,” submitting their lives to his rule and reign.
- **Jesus is the King of God’s kingdom**, that should be clear. He speaks of his kingdom being like a mustard seed or yeast to show us how it is constantly expanding and growing until the time of his return, when every knee will bow to honor him as king (Phil 2:9).
- **Did the people around Jesus see him as king?** The fact that the disciples and others called him “Lord” is evidence that they honored him and obediently submitted to his leadership.
- The apostle Paul follows their lead when he teaches that salvation comes through **faith in the atoning work of Jesus**, as well as a **personal commitment to honor him** as Lord and King. (Rom 10:9)  
<sup>36</sup> This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. <sup>38</sup> And you know that **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:36–38 NLT-SE)
- The reason **why believers in Messiah are called Christians** (*meaning ‘anointed ones’*), is because God has put the same Spirit that dwelt in Messiah, on them. The Holy Spirit is promised to all who believe and confess their faith in Jesus (Acts 2:39). Anyone who does not have the Spirit “does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9).

## - Engaging with “the Christ.”

- **Why is it so important** for us to know Jesus as “the anointed One of God?”
  - He shows us what it looks like to work out your calling and operate in your anointing, while being led every step of the way by the Spirit. THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has **anointed** and **qualified** me to... (Is 61:1 AMP)
    - **Bring** good news to the poor
    - **Comfort** the brokenhearted
    - **Proclaim** that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed
    - **Tell** those who mourn that the time of the LORD’s favor has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies
  - When we know him as the one God anointed for a specific task, **it gives us confidence** that God would anoint us and give us an assignment as well.
  - We learn to **recognize and honor the value of God’s anointing** on others as well.
- We need to follow anointed leaders, leaders who have accepted the assignment given to them by God and now refuse to back off, even when overwhelming resistance is met.
  - Every Scripture has been written by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. <sup>17</sup> Then you will be God’s servant, **fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you**. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 PASSION)
  - **God never grants someone an assignment without giving him or her the ability to complete it.** God Himself establishes all authority in the universe; therefore every leadership role on the planet is an assignment from God.
    - Everyone must submit to governing authorities. **For all authority comes from God**, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. (Rom 13:1 NLT-SE)
  - **Our “success” in completing God-given assignments** is not based upon the accomplishment of the task itself, but in developing a ministry focus fixed on the **Audience of One**.

"Our definition of greatness is not affected by our assignment in life. We have assignments that are important, and we serve in these assignments with faithfulness, but the measure of success in these arenas is not in our hands. We cannot build our confidence on them. **Our confidence is in serving in our assignment before the Audience of One. The issue is...whose applause we are living for.** We may do the same assignment, but the Lord wants us to readjust our hearts. People do not burn out because their assignment is too difficult. They burn out because they are doing their assignment before the wrong set of eyes, looking for the wrong applause." ~ Misty Edwards, **What is the Point?: Discovering life's deeper meaning and purpose.**

- Our goal of life in Christ **cannot** be locked into what we accomplish FOR God...

The time came for IHOP-KC to start, and people would come up to him (*Mike Bickle*) and say, "You did it! You have your dream!" He would answer them by saying, "**IHOP-KC is not my dream. It is my assignment. My dream is to go somewhere in God and to live before His eyes, pleasing Him.**" He says, "IHOP-KC can grow and be successful in the eyes of man or it can get smaller and be unsuccessful in the eyes of man. Either way my dream is not affected because **my dream is to touch the heart of Jesus and be pleasing in His sight**, not to build a big ministry. This is my assignment, not my dream." ~ Misty Edwards, **What is the Point?: Discovering life's deeper meaning and purpose.**

- **What is YOUR dream?** Who you say Jesus is will ultimately determine what you are anointed to do, not the other way around.