



## Sermon Notes: Who Is This Jesus?

### 1. The riddle of Jesus' identity.

- a. Who did people think Jesus was?
- b. Why did they think that?

### 2. The reality of Jesus' identity.

- a. Who is the historic Jesus?
  - 1) Jesus is the Messiah.
  - 2) Jesus is the Son of God and Son of man.
  - 3) Jesus is the suffering Savior.
- b. How can the real Jesus be known?
  - 1) Not by demanding signs, but by hearing in faith.
  - 2) Not by intellectual curiosity, but through relationship.

### 3. The ramifications of Jesus' identity.

If you follow a King who saved you at the cost of his life...

- a. You must waive your rights.
- b. You must walk in relationship.
- c. You must wait for his reward.



## Application Questions: Who Is This Jesus?

1. What did you do this week to further the mission of Jesus Christ, believing that he would work through you, in real time, to give you everything you needed? Be specific.
2. What are some ways Jesus is commonly identified today? Who do people say he was/is?
3. What do people tend to do with Jesus today based on #2?
4. We all have only partial knowledge of Jesus (because no mortal knows him exhaustively). What are some factors that could turn one's partial understanding into invalid *misunderstandings*? [e.g. Treating part of Jesus as if it were the whole – for example, seeing Jesus as a human and concluding he was *only* human.]
5. How could you have avoid or mitigate the types of misunderstandings you described in #4? How would it be possible to have only partial knowledge of Jesus, yet still make right judgments about him?
6. In the First Century, the term "Messiah" was packed with Jewish nationalist expectations that Jesus had no intention of fulfilling. What are some invalid expectations people have of Jesus in our culture today? And where do these expectations come from?
7. How do you think the disciples felt about what Jesus said in Luke 9:22? [If you want to check your answers, read Matthew 16:21-22.]
8. Christian apologetics lends intellectual credibility to the claims of the Bible. But if you really want to *know* Jesus, what do you need beyond reason and evidence?
9. What are the ramifications for your life if you follow a Jesus who is...
  - just a great moral/religious teacher?
  - just a good and kind man who allowed himself to be worshiped as God?
  - the Son of God who suffered and died to save you?
10. What one thing will you do this week to know Jesus as he really is?