

“Did Jesus Really Claim To Be God?”

Luke 5:17-26

Sermon Series: “The Servant King”

Introduction: Many people say that Jesus never claimed to be God but only a teacher or a prophet. However, I want to show you today that Jesus not only claimed to be God but also claimed to be able to forgive sins. That doesn't make Him a good teacher or prophet, but as C.S. Lewis says, “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

-So who is He? Is He a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord?

1. The Revelation of Jesus: Jesus is God who forgives sin and demonstrates it by doing a miracle (v.20-24).

A. Jesus claimed to be God.

-There is a pair of competing syllogisms here. A syllogism is a form of deductive reasoning where a conclusion is drawn from premises so the conclusion is true if the premises are true.

-Religious leaders: Only God can forgive sin.

Jesus is not God.

Therefore, Jesus cannot forgive sin (and is a blasphemer for claiming to do so).

-Jesus: Only God can forgive sin.

I am God.

Therefore, I can forgive sin (and I proved it by healing this man).

-Jesus called Himself the Son of Man, which is a claim to deity (Daniel 7:13-14).

-Here are other places where He claimed to be God: Matthew 26:63-66, John 5:16-18, John 8:56-59, John 10:3-33

B. Jesus forgives sins.

-Ephesians 1:7

C. Jesus demonstrates that He is God who forgives sins by doing a miracle.

-The miracle here is healing the paralytic, but the ultimate miracle that demonstrates it is the resurrection (Matthew 12:38-40).

2. Our Response To Jesus:

A. Trust Jesus instead of man-made religion.

-Contrast paralytic (he had faith) and friends with the Pharisees
-Don't miss Jesus because of reasoning or religion

B. Do what it takes to bring people to Jesus (v.18-20).

-The crowd was indifferent to the plight of this man. They were actually in the way of him getting to Jesus.
-Their works showed their faith. They cared, were creative, sacrificial, passionate, and persistent. Their conviction was that Jesus was his only hope.

C. Glorify Jesus because forgiveness leads to worship.

Conclusion: Are you trusting Jesus as your God and Savior? If you are, are you worshipping Him and trying to bring other people to Him?