

Life & Teachings of Jesus

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Relationships: Jesus, the Father and the Followers

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Life & Teachings of Jesus (NT3)

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The Authority of Jesus

Jesus made many claims to authority

- The authority to announce and establish the kingdom of God
- That he was the agent of God's final salvation
- He demonstrated practically his authority over disease and demons
- The right to preach and teach on his own divine authority
- Authority over the Law – especially the Sabbath
- The ability to forgive sins
- That every person's eternal destiny was based on a relationship with him
- That he would be the authority at the final judgment

The Authority of Jesus

What exactly was Jesus trying to accomplish?

- To announce and begin the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth
- To provide a means for forgiveness of sin & reconciliation back to God
- To create a community of faith to usher in this new kingdom age

The Relationship of Jesus to God the Father

- Jesus consistently described God in one word – “Father”
 - “Father” occurs more than 150 times in the Gospels.
 - Jesus first recorded words: *“I must be about my Father’s business.”*
 - And his last words: *“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”*
- God is sometimes perceived as “Father” in the Old Testament
 - But usually not in a personal sense
 - The usual sense is God as Father of the nation of Israel.
 - Still, there are suggestions of more intimacy:
 - God as *“father of the fatherless”* (Ps. 68:5)
 - *“As a father pities His children, so the Lord pities those who fear him.”* (Ps. 103:13)
- Jesus’ teaching about God as Father was original in two ways:
 - He made God’s Fatherhood the *central* perception of God.
 - He imbued the understanding of God as Father with all the richness that came from a perfect union between Father and Son.

The Meaning of God as Father

- In what way did Jesus teach the idea of God as “Father?”
 - That God the Father is vitally interested in His children’s concerns.
 - *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!* *Matthew 7:9-11*
 - That God knows and loves each individual soul.
 - *And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Mt. 10:30*
 - *Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?* *Luke 15:4-5*
 - Because God is our loving Father, we can come to him as his children, and not with formality.
 - *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.* *Matthew 7:7-8*

The Meaning of God as Father

- In what way did Jesus teach the idea of God as “Father?”
 - Since God is our Father, pain has meaning.
 - *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? Heb. 12:7-8*
 - God as loving Father changes the meaning of sin and forgiveness – from law-breaking to a betrayal of love; and from penal satisfaction to compassionate reconciliation.
 - *“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*
²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.
Luke 15:20-24
 - If God is our Father, then all of us are brothers and sisters.
 - *“Our Father, who art in heaven...”*

The Messianic Titles of Jesus

- **Christ/Messiah – Anointed One**

This title established Jesus as fulfillment of the Jewish expectation for God's promised king and redeemer.

- *“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*
Matthew 16:15-16

- **Son of David**

- *A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”*
Matthew 15:22
- *...a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging.* ⁴⁷ *When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*
Mark 10:46-47

The Messianic Titles of Jesus

- Son of Man

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. *Daniel 7:13-14*

- Son of God

- *The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God...* *Mark 1:1*
- *“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”* *John 11:27*

The Messianic Titles of Jesus

- Lord (*kyrios*)

- the most common title for Jesus in the Early Church, it inherently contains implications of deity, pre-existence and absolute Lordship.

- *Kyrios* was the most common title for Jesus in Paul's writing, and among Gentile Christians.

- *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9-10*

The Relationship of Jesus to His Disciples

- Christianity began as a young people's movement.
- The early disciples were an astonishingly diverse group – a powerful witness to the universality of Jesus' appeal.
- Jesus had two purposes in calling the 12 Apostles:
 - To be his friends, for fellowship and training.
 - To prepare them to carry on the ministry and establish the Church.
 - *He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.*
Mark 3:14-15
- Jesus called the Apostles in three ways: to friendship, to following, and to full ministry.

Jesus and the Twelve

Matthew 10:1–6; Mark 3:13–19; Luke 6:12–16; Acts 1:13

- **Simon Peter** – the most prominent of the Twelve, Simon Peter is always named first in the lists of disciples.
- **Andrew** – brother of Simon Peter, previously a follower of John the Baptist, Andrew brought Simon to Jesus (John 1: 40ff).
- **James** – son of Zebedee. Like Peter and Andrew, James and his brother John were fishermen (Mark 1: 19).
- **John** – brother of James, believed to be youngest of the Twelve and part (with his brother James and Peter) of the “inner circle” of Jesus’ closest disciples.
- **Philip** – like Peter and Andrew was from Bethsaida; he introduced Nathanael to Jesus (John 1: 45).
- **Bartholomew** – “son of Tolmai,” believed to be the same as the man named Nathanael in John 1: 45.
- **Matthew** – identified as the tax collector called Levi by Mark and Luke (Matt. 9: 9; Mark 2: 14; Luke 5: 27); traditionally believed to be the author of the First Gospel.

Jesus and the Twelve

- **Thomas** – known as Didymus (“twin”) (John 11: 16; 20: 24; 21: 2), best known as having doubted the resurrection until he saw and touched Jesus himself.
- **James the Son of Alphaeus** – called James the Lesser or Younger (Mark 15: 40), possibly the brother of Matthew-Levi, since both of their fathers are named Alphaeus (Mark 2: 14).
- **Thaddaeus** – aka Lebbaeus, or Judas the Son of James, the most disputed name. Matthew & Mark refer to Thaddaeus (though some manuscripts refer to Lebbaeus); Luke refers to Judas the son of James – may be nicknames for one person.
- **Simon the Cananaean (Zealot)** – In Luke, Simon is called the Zealot; in Mark and Matthew, he is the Cananaean, from an Aramaic term meaning “zealous one.”
- **Judas Iscariot** – betrayer of Jesus. Iscariot probably means “man from Kerioth” (a region of Judea) and was a family name (John 6: 71).

The Divinity of Jesus

- **Jesus was God Incarnate** (Mark 1:1; John 1:1,14; Gal. 4:4)
We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:4
- **Jesus miraculously was born of a virgin** (Mt. 1:22-23; Luke 1:34-35)
- **Jesus was Divine Creator** (John 1:3)
The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col. 1:15-17
- **Jesus is Lord** (Romans 10: 9; Hebrews 1:3)
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:9-11