

Sermon – Who is Jesus? The Son of God

Pastor Ed Blonski | February 19, 2023

Conclusion of the Series “Who Is Jesus?”

Today we conclude this message series that asks the question, “Who is Jesus?”

Jesus is Preacher

First, we looked at the answer that Jesus is a preacher.

More, even, than just the preacher who gave the Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain.

Jesus is also the most powerful sermon of all time.

And His followers are the most powerful “Jesus sermons” of all time.

I don’t know if you’ve ever considered that before, but I think we certainly should.

It isn’t a new concept.

St. Francis Of Assisi said 800 years ago, “The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today.”

Jesus is Teacher

We also explored Jesus as the greatest teacher of all time last week. He had the four characteristics of what makes a great teacher

- He knew His stuff
- He was great at teaching
- He loves His students
- He inspires His students.

Jesus in the Son of God

So, this week I want us to look at one more answer to the question “Who is Jesus?”

As I’ve been saying, it seems kind of odd to ask that question in a Christian church.

After all, shouldn’t we all know who Jesus is?

I’m learning quickly never to make assumptions like that!

Not everyone here is a follower of Jesus. And for that I thank God!

It’s awesome that someone who is not a Christian, or skeptical, or just questioning, is here today!

This is the best place to find out more about Jesus – whether you are skeptical or a life-long follower!

And today’s answer to the question, “Who is Jesus?” is the big answer!

It is the answer that tops all answers.

It is the answer of answers.

Jesus is the Son of God!



Sermon:

Who is Jesus: The Son of God

1 Timothy 6:13

Transfiguration Sunday



And this is the day of days to talk about Jesus being the Son of God.

This is the day the church calls “Transfiguration of our Lord” day.

The word “transfiguration” means “a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.”

And this is what is told us of Jesus in Matthew 17:1-2,

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Jesus had just a week before told His disciples that He must now go to Jerusalem and suffer for the sins of the world and die on a cross.

The Transfiguration of Jesus marks that transition from Jesus’ earthly ministry of preaching and teaching to Jesus’ passion and death.

Ends Epiphany

And the Transfiguration account of Jesus brings us to the end of Epiphany – that time in the church year that we have been learning about Jesus as preacher and teacher.

When we have been tackling the hard conversations that followers of Jesus have about baptism and marriage and life and choices.

Transitions us to Lent

Our time in January and February has taken us from the Baptism of Jesus to the Transfiguration of Jesus.

From the highs of Christmas and New Years to the depths of winter's snow.

And just as Jesus now turns His face to Jerusalem where He will suffer, we turn our faces and attention to the relentless journey to the cross and the tomb of Jesus.

But not quite yet.

First, let us climb up the mountain with Peter, James and John – and Jesus – and linger for a moment to watch what happens before we head down to Calvary.

God the Father Speaks To His Son

Up here in the darkness, stars shining and only the sound is of heavy breathing as we climb up and up, I want to remind you that part of what is going to happen has actually happened before.

1. Baptism

Three years earlier, John, James and Andrew were on the banks of the Jordan River when they first saw Jesus.

He went down into the water to stand next to John the Baptist – their first rabbi.

Jesus and John exchanged a few words – as cousins sometimes do – and then John took hold of Jesus' head and shoulders and pushed Him under the water.

Up Jesus came, water cascading off his head and hair, and for the first time in millennia the voice of God was heard.

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

This was no ordinary man being baptized by John.

This was no ordinary rabbi about to take on 12 disciples.

There was no mistaking the voice of God.

And they were looking at His Son!

2. John 12:27-30

They will hear the voice of God again in a couple of weeks, when Jesus prays that God the Father will glorify His name.

"I have glorified it. And I will glorify it again."

This will be about a week before Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies for all our sins.

3. Transfiguration

But up here on the mountain, in the chilly end-of-winter air, Peter, James and John are with Jesus.

Suddenly, the dark night is shattered with an unbelievably blinding light!

Jesus takes a bit of the veil away and reveals to them a glimpse of His heavenly glory.

And then two more figures emerge from the brightness!

And finally, the Voice yet again!

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well please. Listen to Him!"

Who is Jesus? Clearly, He is the Son of God!

Start with the "Why"

Another question quickly comes to mind.

Why is it important that Jesus is the Son of God?

Why is it important that Jesus is the Son of God?

In other words, "So what?"

What's the big deal?

1. Because It took all the power Jesus has as the Son of God to save us.

The big deal is that it took all the power Jesus has as the Son of God to save us!

That's a big deal!

But still, so what?

2. It took all the love Jesus has as the Son of God to save us

It took all the love Jesus has as the Son of God to save us.

Okay, agreed, that's a big deal.

Jesus has to be the Son of God in order to save us.

Got it.

But save us from what?

Save us From What?

Remember at the beginning of this service [or what we will do in a few minutes] when we confessed that we are sinners?

Have you ever wondered why we do that?

Sin

This is one of those things that, again, we just assume everyone knows.

We may even assume we know why we confess our sins.

Because we're in church and that's what you do in church, right?

Well, partly, yes. That's true.

But it is also true that each one of us is a sinner.

Sinner from the time of our conception. Because of the sin that is passed down from Adam and Eve through our parents, grandparents, and on and on back in time.

We come into this world lost in sin.

Can't find our way out.

We're in the dark, fumbling around, cold, scared, alone, confused.

Death

And we have this inkling that there's something awaiting us.

Something dark. Something sinister.

It is death.

"For the wages of sin is death...." The Bible says.

The Power of the Devil

Death, which was the result of disobeying God's will and rejecting God's love.

Death, which is the power of the devil.

The fear of death. The fear of dying.

This is what we confess when we confess our sins.

This acknowledgment is how we are prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive what Jesus has done for us.

Jesus. The Son of God.

How Did Jesus Show He Is the Son of God?

In this Transfiguration, there are three ways that show that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is the Son of God because God said so at His Transfiguration.

First, God said so.

It's pretty clear!

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

Jesus is the Son of God that Moses and Elijah had faith was coming.

Then, look who is with Jesus.

Moses. Elijah.

The Law giver. The greatest Prophet.

Moses and Elijah both had faith in the One who was promised to come.

Moses said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen...."

Elijah, as God's prophet, not only spoke the Word of the Lord against those who rejected God, but was also the model for John the Baptist who prepared the way for Christ.

With Moses and Elijah speaking to Jesus about what was about to happen – the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus – we see yet another indication that Jesus is not merely a good man of God, but actually the Son of God.

Jesus is the Son of God and showed a mere glimpse of His divinity to Peter, James and John.

And then the light is turned on for Peter, James and John!

There is no doubt in their minds that Jesus is the Son of God as they get a mere glimpse of His glory that blinds them and knocks them off their feet.

Interestingly, Matthew, Mark, and Luke all give us an account of the Transfiguration – and none of them were there.

John, who was there, doesn't include this part of Jesus' story in His Gospel.

Having written his Gospel last, maybe the Holy Spirit felt that three accounts – from Matthew, Mark, and Luke – were enough.

But, as we learned in our Bible study of Revelation, John gets his chance by recording the glory of Jesus in the Vision of Revelation many years later.

You should join us for this Bible study on Sunday mornings!

But Above All is the Cross, where we see

The voice of God the Father, Moses, Elijah, and the revealed glory of Jesus all tell us that Jesus is the Son of God.

But beyond all this, we also have the greatest vision of Jesus the Son of God in the cross of Jesus.



Jesus is the Son of God that saves you and loves you.

Jesus takes the sin of the world on Himself and is nailed to a cross.

His shed blood is the atoning sacrifice for all your sin.

Jesus goes to the cross because He loves you.

Jesus loves you.

And in His power as the Son of God, His love and forgiveness reaches the entire human race!

And that changes everything for you today!

And because Jesus loves you, Jesus forgives you, and Jesus is the Son of God, that changes everything for you today!

This is the point of the Transfiguration.

That Jesus is the Son of God and that changes you today.

Now What?

In other words, now what?



Receive the sonship of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace.

The Holy Spirit wants to change your life.

If you are here as skeptic, someone who has questions about this whole Christianity thing, I'm here to tell you the Holy Spirit wants to change your life.

As Jesus Christ is Transfigured to show He is the Son of God, the Holy Spirit works through His Means of Grace to transform you.

You can have the forgiveness of your sins through the cross of the Son of God.

You can have a new life now through the life of the Son of God.

You can have eternal life in heaven through the power of the Son of God.

That is briefly shown you in the Transfiguration of Jesus!

If you are a follower of the Jesus, you know a lot of this already.

But even now, your life can be transformed even more.

Take the next steps through the power of the Son of God!

Walk with Christ down this mountain, to the cross, through the empty tomb, and into the world to tell another person – this week – about the transforming love of Jesus, the Son of God.

Jesus the Son of God loves you and meets all your needs so that you can live with hope.

The Transfiguration of Jesus shows us in a powerful way that He is the Son of God.

The Transfiguration of Jesus shows us that Jesus has the power that transforms our lives by His love.

A love that meets all the needs we have.

A love that gives us the power to live with hope.

Who is Jesus? He is a preacher.

He is a teacher.

He is the Son of God.

And that changes everything for you today!