

## **THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD**

### **Bible Reading - John Chapter 4 verses 4 to 30 and 39 to 42.**

(Jesus and the Samaritan Woman).

*‘Jesus left Judea and returned to Galilee.*

*<sup>4</sup> He had to go through Samaria on the way. <sup>5</sup> Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. <sup>7</sup> Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.*

*<sup>9</sup> The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”*

*<sup>11</sup> “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”*

*<sup>13</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”*

*<sup>15</sup> “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”*

*<sup>16</sup> “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.*

*<sup>17</sup> “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.*

*Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”*

*19 “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”*

*21 Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

*25 The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”*

*26 Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!”*

*28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.*

*39 Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” 40 When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, 41 long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. 42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Saviour of the world.”*

## **SERMON**

After sharing with you from chapters 4 and 5 of Matthew’s Gospel over the last 2 months I asked God what He wanted me to talk about today, expecting the answer – continue with Matthew’s Gospel and chapter 6.

But I heard this simple phrase “Tell them about Jesus, my Son”.

Have you ever opened your Bible and said something like ‘OK Lord, what would you like me to read today?’

Or have you perhaps said to God, ‘What would you like me to do today?’ Or ‘Who should I visit – What should I say?’

I recommend it – you will be surprised how many times He answers!

In his book ‘Mere Christianity’ C S Lewis said this:

***‘One must train the habit of Faith.***

***‘One must make sure that, if you have once accepted Christianity, then some of its main doctrines shall be deliberately held before your mind for some time every day. That is why daily prayers and religious readings and churchgoing are necessary parts of the Christian life. We have to be continually reminded of what we believe. Neither this belief nor any other will automatically remain alive in the mind. It must be fed.’***

Profound words. As well as needing to be fed, though, our body needs to drink. In the Bible reading today we heard Jesus say to the woman ***“Those who drink the water I give, will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”***

So part of the preacher’s role is to offer you food, spiritual sustenance – to feed you with the Word of Life. The Holy Bible is God’s Word and I believe *it alone* offers truth and life! Jesus Christ offers us a ‘water’ to quench our thirst in such a way as to give us eternal life.

So, believing that God had told me to talk to you about His Son today, I was led to John’s Gospel. In the Bible, John is known as the disciple whom Jesus loved, so the likelihood is that John knew Jesus better than anyone else – so I thought I will remind us all, what John’s amazing Gospel tells us about Jesus.

In traditional Anglican churches at Christmas time, the Candle-lit service of Lessons and Carols culminates with a unique reading from the very beginning of John’s Gospel.

In the NIV version (quite like the King James Version), John chapter 1 begins like this - I am sure you will remember:

***‘In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.’***

Who or what is John talking about when he uses the phrase ‘The Word’?

This ‘Word’ he says, was in the beginning and was with God. Then, he gives us a clue – He refers to ‘the Word’ as ‘He’.

Confusing? – Well I was puzzled for years because God’s ‘language’ and knowledge is very different and infinitely more intelligent than ours, isn’t it.

And as we read on, we learn in verse 14 that *the ‘Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us’*, or *‘made His home among us’* as it says in the NLT version.

And in verse 11 it says *‘He came to his own people (the Jews), and even they rejected him.’*

God’s Word made flesh is none other than **Jesus Christ**.

Imagine the Bible in the form of a man – The Bible is Jesus, in the flesh. That’s what it is telling us here at the very beginning of the fourth Gospel!

Amazing? Incredible? Hard to understand? Certainly.

BUT, the truth nevertheless.

Jesus, born over 2,000 years ago, was actually there with God right at the very beginning of time, before He was born as a man!

And I discovered this is consistent with the very first chapter of the first book of the Bible.

In Genesis 1 and verse 26, God says *‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness’* (NIV).

If, at the beginning of time, God was there alone creating the world and mankind, – who is He referring to as ‘us’ and ‘our’ (let *us* create... in *our* image)?

It helps when we learn that the Hebrew word used here for ‘us’ is apparently ‘a minimum of 3 people’. And so there they were at the beginning, God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Jesus was there (in Spirit, not in the flesh) at the very beginning of time, sharing God’s glory and majesty; and everything and everyone was created to worship and adore the triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I have spent some time focussed on the first few verses of chapter 1 but I have done this deliberately, believing that for some of us, this will open up perhaps a whole new understanding of just how awesome and beyond our comprehension our God and Saviour Jesus Christ is.

You see however big your vision is of Jesus Christ, we learn from The Bible that He is infinitely bigger than any one of us can ever imagine.

Up to now, have you seen him just as a Babe in a manger, or perhaps like the Muslims, view Jesus just as a prophet? Some people see Him just as a noble man, who went around doing good things, but not the son of God.

What do you know of Jesus, the ‘carpenter’s son’ as some Jews of His time thought of Him?

Jesus asked the disciples what they thought, and in Matthew 16 v 16, Simon Peter replied ‘***You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.***”

Do you know for sure that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God?

Many, even some within the Church, struggle to believe it.

In a sense that isn’t surprising, because almost all the religious leaders and even the High Priest of Jesus’ day didn’t (or wouldn’t) believe Jesus’ claim to be The Messiah, when He walked this earth. The ordinary folk found it much easier to believe, than did the leaders.

Maybe ‘intellect’ stood in the way - or was it pride? No wonder Jesus said in Matthew 18 v 3 “***I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.***”

Little children simply *believe*. It is when we become adults that our intellect and our reasoning can undo our simple faith.

If you struggle with believing that Jesus is the Son of God, my prayer is that the Holy Spirit will soften your heart today and wake you up to the truth that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God and is your only Saviour – the ONLY way to salvation and eternal life is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts Chapter 4 verse 12 tells us ‘***there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.***’

After my long introduction, let’s begin a ten minute walk through John’s Gospel to see what it tells about Jesus. I hope you’ll be surprised at what we find.

I'm going to start at the end! In chapter 20 and verse 31 John tells us why he wrote this Gospel ***'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name'***

If you already believe this truth, my hope is that you might continue to believe and that God will deepen your faith, still further.

So here is a whistle-stop tour - a summary - of some of the things John tells us to help us believe that Jesus is our *only* Saviour...

Going back now to the beginning of John's Gospel, I've already covered the first two incredible verses,

In verse 3 it says of Jesus:

***'Everything was made through Him'***. In case we missed that, John repeats in verse 10:

***'The world (i.e. everything) was made through Him'***.

In Genesis chapter 1 it says Jesus and His Father **spoke** the world into being.

Imagine, you say something and the thing you just spoke *must* happen! Genesis 1 verse 3 tells us God spoke ***'Let there be light - and there was light!'*** In verse 9 he told the land and the water to come into being; in verse 11 vegetation, in verse 14 the stars!

"Stars be formed" Pffff. God speaks – it happens!

Do you believe it? If you can believe that, then you can see that when Jesus opens His mighty, awesome, all-powerful mouth, things happen that defy logic.

I will remind you in a moment by what power He healed people and raised them from the dead 2,000 years ago, just as He does today through the lives of those that have this unwavering belief!

In verse 17 we read ***'Grace and Truth come from Him'***. So we can only receive grace from Him (Grace – that is unmerited and unconditional love). Truth – also a gift from Him.

Verse 18 tells us simply ***'He is God'***

Verse 29 – ***'John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"'***

If God hadn't sent His Son to take away the sin of the world, then when we die we would *not* inherit eternal life.

In verse 34, John the Baptist declares again: ***'I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God'*** (NIV).

This Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, performed miracle after miracle in front of no end of onlookers. Let me list them:

In chapter 2 and verse 9 we learn that according to John, Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine! (In those days the father of the bride would have been humiliated if they ran out of wine at the wedding party!). Jesus saved the day.

In chapter 4 we learn that he healed an official's son who was close to death. How? – By prescribing pharmaceutical drugs? No! By offering the kind of potion or lotion given by witch doctors? No - He spoke, and the boy was healed – supernaturally!

In chapter 5, Jesus healed an invalid of 38 years, He said ***'get up, pick up your mat and walk'*** and he did. No replacement hip surgery, no operation of any kind, no crutches.

Jesus speaks and things that have gone wrong are fixed. Instantly!

This is Jesus – God manifested in the form of a man, His Son.

In chapter 6 – He feeds 5,000 men, plus the women and children with just 5 loaves and 2 fish, then He walks on the lake. Miracles indeed!

In chapter 9 He heals a blind man, this time by making mud with His saliva, and spreading the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, ***"Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam."*** He did and the man came back seeing!

In chapter 11 we read about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Imagine, being raised from the dead. And when we die, if we believe Jesus is God's Son and have confessed to God our sins and repented of them, Jesus' promise is that *we* will be raised, but not back to life in a body that will die again, but to eternal life, in a perfect glorified body!

In chapter 20 verse 30 we are told Jesus did many other miracles and the NIV study bible lists 31 different miracles performed by Jesus.

Jesus' miracles baffled the religious leaders of the day.

Moving on from His miracles, we learn that Jesus knows everything. In chapter 2 verse 19 he prophesied that he would be killed and be raised back to life on the third day, and He was! In chapter 4, we see He knew everything about a woman he had never met before, and as a result of her testimony many people from her village met Him and came to believe Jesus *was* the Saviour of the world.

Turning to chapter 3 we see in verse 3 that we must be ‘born again’. Jesus in effect is saying that we will never be fulfilled and understand the things of the kingdom of God unless we submit to him and allow His Holy Spirit to overwhelm us and make us like Jesus. Really the job of the Holy Spirit is to reveal more of Jesus to us.

In verse 16 of chapter 3 we read what has become one of the most quoted verses of scripture telling us that Jesus came into the world that we might have eternal life, if we believe in Him. So far as I can see, this is repeated at least eight other times in John’s Gospel – twice in chapters 5 (v 24 and 39) and 6 (v 39 and 44), once in chapter 8 (v 24), once in chapter 10 (v28) and finally in chapter 17 (v2) it repeats that Jesus came that we might inherit eternal life; such is God’s outrageous grace and unconditional love for us.

There is no ticket to Heaven you can buy. No secret knowledge or password will get you in. Jesus is the only way to the Father. He tells us in John 14 v 6 ‘***No one can come to the Father except through me***’. He offers eternal life as a free gift to anyone who will repent, turn to Him and make Him Lord of their life.

Good works alone won’t get you into Heaven. Mohammed can’t save you. Buddha, or the Dalai Lama can’t save you from eternal damnation, as we have seen today in many Scriptures, only *Jesus* can save us.

Do you know Him? Do you believe in Him? Are you a follower, a disciple of Christ?

He knows everything there is about us – warts and all. That’s what the first half of chapter 4 tells us. That truth brought a whole town out to meet Him. I wish I had time to read the entire Gospel to you. Perhaps it would be good for us to read it for ourselves in the privacy of our own homes.

This is our God – he speaks, things happen. Everything, even demons, have **no choice** but to obey – because He speaks, it happens.

In chapter 6, verse 35 Jesus says something very deep and difficult for us to understand. He says: ***‘I am the bread of life.’***

We know that food is important to keep us alive, but He is saying that true life is found only in, and by following Him.

Moving to chapter 8 (v 12) we see that Jesus declares that He *is* ***‘the light of the world’***. If you were here at our first service, you might remember we discovered that in Matthew’s Gospel one of the first things Jesus did, when he entered his three year ministry, was to go down to Capernaum where it *says* ***‘the people were living in darkness’*** and he showed them a better way. The way of God! Jesus is the light of the world.

In verse 32 we see ***‘He is the Truth’***. In verses 42 onwards we see that there were many Godly Jews who thought they had got their spiritual walk all sorted - but they were blinded by the devil from the truth of who Jesus was. Jesus told them they ***‘were the children of the devil’*** - their father was Satan!

Jesus won’t shy away from telling us things we need to hear that hurt us, especially when we are living in sin, error, or disobedience.

Naturally the religious leaders weren’t happy with what He had to say to them, and when he said a few verses later ***‘Before Abraham was, I am’*** (which of course inferred he was God) they tried to stone him to death but it says simply ***‘he slipped away from them.’***

In chapter 10, Jesus says He is the gate for the sheep and that ***‘Those who come in through me will be saved’***. Then He says ***‘I am the good shepherd’*** who ***‘sacrifices his life for the sheep’***. And in chapter 15 and verse 13 He said He would ***‘lay down His life for His sheep’*** – you and me.’

Coming back to chapter 10, it is in verse 10 that we find that wonderful verse where Jesus contrasts Himself with the devil. He says

***‘The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. (But) My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life’***. Truly, only Jesus can give us a rich and satisfying life.

In chapter 13 Jesus sets the example of humility by washing His disciples feet and then tells them as He tells *us* ***‘We are to love one another; because’*** He says ***‘God is love.’***

Chapter 14 is where He promises that He is going to prepare a place in Heaven for ALL who follow Him. ***'No-one'*** He declares ***'comes to the Father except through me'***.

In chapter 15 Jesus says He is the vine we are the branches, and He explains we can only do things of any worth, while we are in Him and He in us.

In verse 16 He says He chose you and me, and we are to go and bear fruit. In Galatians 5 v 22 we find that the fruit He expects us to bare, the Fruit of the Spirit is ***'love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control'***.

In chapter 16 He says ***'In the world we will have trouble but in Him we have peace.'***

Do you need peace right now? Jesus is the one who gives us real peace; a deep lasting Shalom peace – a peace that passes understanding.

Chapter 17 is the great piece about Unity – Jesus tells us how we are to love one another and be united just as He and His father are one – so we are to be one as well. He expects His Church in particular to be united.

In chapter 19 we learn that our punishment (the punishment we deserve for all our sins) was upon Him. He gladly took the punishment we deserved at the cross.

As we turn into chapter 20 we witness the death of Jesus; the fulfilment of everything God sent His Son to do – to die in our place that we might be set free and inherit eternal life. We then read about appearances He made to his disciples to prove he had been resurrected from the dead.

Prior to His death, in chapters 14 and 16 He promised after He died He would send His Holy Spirit to comfort us (chapter 14 v 16 and 26; 16 v7).

Finally, in John chapter 21 v 25, it says:

***'Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written'***.

This is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - God in the flesh!

He is all-knowing, all powerful, outside of time, He takes away the sins of the world, He heals the sick, brings sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf; and the lame walk.

He is love, He is the bread of Life, He is grace and truth. Most of all, without Him there would be no forgiveness for sins and no way for anyone to enter Heaven when they die. The Bible says in Romans, All are sinners and '***The wages of sin is death***'.

The Scriptures tell us in many places including Romans 2 verse 1, Colossians 2 verse 14 and 2 Thessalonians 2 verse 12, that Hell is the final destiny of all who have not accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Christ has paid the ransom required by God for all mankind. Therefore anyone who will confess and repent of their sin, and turn to Jesus to forgive them and save them, then follow Him by obeying His Holy Word, is promised a place in the eternal kingdom of God.

What an awesome, loving, gracious, selfless God. Don't you just love Him!

Amen.

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