

Lesson 5 Commentary

What Did Jesus Christ Do?

Review/ What did we learn from the last study about who Jesus is?

Jesus claimed to be the unique Son of God and equal with God.

1. **Mark 2:1-12** What was Jesus doing when the paralyzed man was brought to him?

Jesus was “preaching the word” to a crowd of people.

The miraculous works Jesus performed were almost always accompanied by teaching about who he is (the Son of God) and what he came to do (save sinners). His healing miracles were “signs,” which pointed beyond the physical relief to a spiritual reality. Jesus described himself as “the light of the world” as he healed a man born blind (John 9) and “the bread of life” after feeding thousands with a few loaves and fishes (John 6).

2. What did he do for the paralytic that could be seen by the crowd?

Jesus healed the paralysis of the man, so that he was able to walk out of the house, carrying the mat on which he had been brought.

3. What other power did Jesus claim to have?

Jesus claimed to have the authority to forgive sins.

4. What does his claim, together with the healing, imply about Jesus?

Jesus was claiming to speak as God when he said, “Your sins are forgiven,” and his miraculous healing proved his claim.

Offenses committed against other people are also sins against God. King David recognized that his sins against Bathsheba and her husband (2 Samuel 11) were also against God. When he wrote, “Against you (God), you only, have I sinned...” (Psalm 51:4), he was not denying his sin against the people involved but rather emphasizing his guilt before God. When we forgive others, we promise not to hold their offenses against them, but we cannot speak for God. We can (and should) say, “I forgive you,” but only God can say, “Your sins are forgiven.”

5. **Mark 2:13-17** What did Jesus say he came into the world to do?

Jesus said he came to call to himself those who admit they are sinners, not those who think they are always right and good.

The Bible teaches that “there is no one righteous” (Romans 3:10) and that “all have sinned” (3:23), but not everyone is willing to accept God’s judgment of them. Jesus cannot heal those who think they are not sick, but he will forgive those who admit they are sinful. The apostle Paul explained that “no one will be declared righteous in his (God’s) sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin” (Romans 3:20). Those who think they can achieve righteousness on their own are deceiving themselves (Romans 10:2-3). Only the righteousness they receive as a gift *from* God can make them acceptable *to* God.

6. **10:33-34** What did Jesus say would happen to him?

Jesus explained to his disciples that he would be tortured and killed but would rise from the dead three days later.

7. **10:45** What did he say was the purpose of his death? What is a ransom?

Jesus said that he came “to give his life as a ransom (a price paid to release someone from bondage) for many.”

The cultural practice from which Jesus drew his analogy is slavery, but the contemporary problem of hostages being held for ransom is a more familiar and equally useful illustration.

8. In light of our previous studies, from what does the death of Jesus give release?

Jesus said, “...everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34, Romans 6:17,20, 7:14), and the Bible teaches that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Therefore, the death of Jesus is a ransom from sin and death because sin leads to death (Romans 6:16).

9. **Matthew 28:1-10** How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead as he predicted?

An angel announced to the women who went to the tomb that Jesus had risen and gone to Galilee, where they could see him. Luke 24, John 20 and 1 Corinthians 15 also give accounts of his appearances.

Jesus described the people of his day as wicked (Matthew 12:38-39) because so many demanded that he prove himself by miracles and yet refused to believe in him no matter what he did. Still, he assured them that he would prove his identity by his resurrection (Matthew 12:39-40). Jesus was critical of his followers as well, not because they wanted evidence of the resurrection but because they were not satisfied with the eyewitness testimony they had. He rebuked the disciples for not believing the women who reported seeing Jesus at the tomb (Mark 16:9-14), and he chastised Thomas for not taking the word of the other disciples that Jesus had appeared to them (John 20:24-29). God determines the sincerity of our search for the truth about him by our response to the evidence he has given (John 17:20, Acts 2:32, 1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

10. **Romans 6:20-23** What can God do for us because his Son died and rose again?

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God can set us free from the bondage of sin, make us holy and give us eternal life.

“(W)ithout holiness no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). The holiness of God is like the heat of the sun, which destroys whatever comes near it that is not like it. The Bible teaches that God is a “consuming fire” (Deuteronomy 4:24, Hebrews 12:29), who destroys anything unholy in his presence. Because Jesus died for our sins, God can make us holy (Colossians 1:21-22, Hebrews 10:10) and fit for a relationship with him. God credits his righteousness to those who trust in Jesus Christ. “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (Romans 3:22).

11. **1 John 5:11-12** What relationship must we have with Jesus Christ in order to benefit from what he did?

In order to have his life, we must “have” Jesus.

The Bible says that the “hope of glory” (the hope of being holy) is “Christ in you” (Colossians 1:27). He is our righteousness and our holiness (1 Corinthians 1:30, Ephesians 4:24). Those who have Jesus Christ in them (Ephesians 3:17) have his righteousness credited to them (Romans 4:24). There is no in-between; Jesus is either in us or he is not. Those who have him in their hearts have spiritual life, which is eternal, and those who do not are spiritually dead and separated from God forever.