

Theoacademy

Form Your Faith. Anytime. Anywhere.

Lesson 3: Who do you say that I am?

Theocademy

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Getting Started

Before watching the video, consider the following questions.

- Think about the person in your life you trust the most. What makes him/her trustworthy?

- In your life, how have you experienced people exercising and exerting power? Are some ways more appropriate than others? Why?

During the Video

As you watch the video, think about the following questions.

- What is the significance of naming someone or something?

- What were some of the assumptions about the Messiah during Jesus' time?

- What does it mean to say that Jesus is your Lord and Savior?

We Need a Messiah

We need someone to see us and save us. It is one thing to say that we are willing to turn from sin and renounce evil in the world, but that's not something we can do on our own. Presbyterians have always acknowledged that we have a particular propensity to mess things up. If left to our own devices, we will continue to make the small kinds of choices that lead to great big terrible realities. We need someone to give us a way out of that horrible cycle. In the Old Testament, the people longed for someone to lead them out of the tyranny, oppression, and hatred they both endured and inflicted on one another. They called this person that would come and change everything "The Messiah." Old Testament prophets spoke of this Messiah frequently, describing what God's appointed deliverer would look, sound, and act like.

Read through the following prophecies about the Messiah, and write down the characteristics you notice.

Text	Characteristics
Isaiah 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.	
Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.	
Isaiah 11:2-5 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.	

<p>Isaiah 40:10-11 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.</p>	
<p>Isaiah 61:1-3 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.</p>	

You Are the Messiah

The expectations of this coming Savior were pretty high among the people of first century Israel. (Remember, these people had gone through half a century of slavery, two forced exiles from their homeland, and countless years of persecution.) So when Jesus came on the scene, people started getting excited and asking questions. Might this man finally be the Promised One? Could he be the Redeemer who would restore Israel? In Matthew 16, after traveling with his followers for quite some time, Jesus finally acknowledges that he is, indeed, the Messiah. In doing so, Jesus also exposes that what his fellow Jews had envisioned as the Messiah wasn't the complete picture. Jesus, the awaited Messiah had indeed come to restore Israel – but in a manner much different than expected.

As a group, read through the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Matthew 16:13-28 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. ²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and

For Further Study

The Book of Order

- **F-1.0201 The Authority of Christ.** Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, has given to him all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body. The Church's life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work.
- **F-1.0204 Christ Is the Church's Hope.** In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God.

Heidelberg Catechism

- **Q. 14. Can any mere creature make the payment for us?** A. No one. First of all, God does not want to punish any other creature for man's debt. Moreover, no mere creature can bear the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and redeem others from it.
- **Q. 15. Then what kind of mediator and redeemer must we seek?** A. One who is a true and righteous man and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is at the same time true God.
- **Q. 18. Who is this mediator who is at the same time true God and a true and perfectly righteous man?** A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is freely given to us for complete redemption and righteousness.
- **Q. 34. Why do you call him OUR LORD?** A. Because, not with gold or silver but at the cost of his blood, he has redeemed us body and soul from sin and all the dominion of the devil, and has bought us for his very own.

Second Helvetic Confession

- **Chapter XI. Of Jesus Christ, True God and Man, the Only Savior of the World.** For we teach and believe that this Jesus Christ our Lord is the unique and eternal Savior of the human race, and thus of the whole world, in whom by faith are saved all who before the law, under the law, and under the Gospel were saved, and however many will be saved at the end of the world.... Wherefore, we quite openly profess and preach that Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah, that holy and blessed one whom all the types of the law and predictions of the prophets prefigured and promised; and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not now to look for any other. Now there only remains for all of us to give all glory to Christ, believe in him, rest in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life. For however many seek salvation in any other than in Christ alone, have fallen from the grace of God and have rendered Christ null and void for themselves (Gal. 5:4).

Confession of 1967

- **Part 1. Section A. The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.** In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all men stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all men. God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for man. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.