

Matt 17:1-9

Three Things Every Disciple Must Believe About Jesus Part 1

The Literal Son of God

There has only ever been one requirement for life with God now and into eternity, *belief in His Son*. There is no work one can perform that supersedes or is equivalent to belief in Jesus. Belief in Jesus is everything. It changes everything. **John 6:28-29** “²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” **ESV 1Cor 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” **NIV** Furthermore, there is no name other than the name of Jesus by which a boy or girl, man or woman, can be saved, period. And what we believe about Jesus is absolutely vital to our position with God and walk with him. **Acts 4:12** “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” **NLT John 11:25-26** “²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” **ESV** The pressing question of this sermon series will be what do you personally believe about Jesus, and does it line up with scripture? In this sermon series I will share three things every disciple must believe about Jesus and why. So today, we receive the first thing.

Sisters and Brothers, we must believe that Jesus is literally the Son of God. The one who came down from heaven, **John 3:13**. He is not God’s Son metaphorically or symbolically. He is so, factually. When we believe this, we agree with the exact teaching of scripture concerning the person of Jesus. That is, Jesus is actually God in the flesh. The

Word incarnate. This means that Jesus is not just a mere human being. He is not only a good teacher. He is not simply a person of moral excellence. He is not someone simply to be admired among others. He is God in the flesh. God is his Father, literally, and Mary's virgin pregnancy is fact. Therefore, Jesus is 100% man and 100% God, at the same time. And this is a point of truth that we, disciples of Christ, must be unyielding. **Listen, believing the wrong thing about Jesus is tantamount to unbelief. Matt 16:13-18** ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." **ESV**

Notice in the text that when the cloud was gone and God was done speaking, only Jesus remained. **V5-6** ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only." Hear me. Just like Peter here we have the propensity to place others alongside Jesus in significance. **God forbids such a notion. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him".** There is no other person in all of scripture, in all of human history, that God makes such proclamation and gives

such a command. Only Jesus, His Son. Church, we must believe that Jesus in the literal Son of God.

Luke 1:30-35 “³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

ESV

John 1:14-18 “¹⁴So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son. ¹⁵John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’” ¹⁶From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.” **NLT**

Now, why must we believe this? Very simple. If we do not believe this, which is the undeniable witness of scripture, we are still dead in our sins. Listen, does not matter if you have been in the church all your life. Born in the church, baptized in the church, raised in the church, served in the church, lived a good moral life, all that means nothing to

God if you don't believe the record of scripture regarding His Son Jesus. First and foremost, that he is literally the Son of God. Here me, if this is you, you are still lost, dead in sin. But glory be to God you don't have to remain so. In this very moment you can repent and believe.

John 5:1-12 “¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony. ⁷So we have these three witnesses—⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree. ⁹Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. ¹⁰All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. ¹¹And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.” **NLT**

Three things every disciple must believe about Jesus. The first thing, that he is literally the Son of God, for our lives depends on it. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.