

# **“Who Do I Say Jesus Is, and What Does That Make Me?”**

## **By Pastor Andy Giebler**

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I don't know if this is part two or a continuation. Who do men say that I am? Who do I say the Christ is? I like a part of it, Kirk, you said, about evaluation. Look and say, how are we doing? And, if I could title this, this morning, it's, “What Does That Make Me?” “Who Do I Say Jesus Is, and What Does That Make Me?” If I could give it a subtitle, it would be, “Self-Evaluation.” So, who is this Jesus to me? Who is this God that we serve? Who Is He to me, personally? I want to reference a story in Numbers: Moses was leading the people. They're supposed to be going into the Promised Land. They're supposed to go in and take it. And God has them send in one from every tribe, one man, to go out and spy out the land. Growing up, we used to sing a song, in our children's church, and it was, “Twelve men went to spy on Canaan, ten were bad and two were good. What did they see when they got to Canaan? Ten were bad and two were good. Some saw giants big and tall, some saw grapes in clusters fall. Some saw God rules over all. Ten were bad and two were good.” And, the story says that ten came back and gave an evil report. Now, why did they give an evil report? They were sent of God to do this. They had permission, they were told to go; they were commissioned to do this. “This is your land; go take it.” And, in Numbers, thirteen, thirty-three, their answer was:

**Numbers 13:33** *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

The key there, “...and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers...” How do we see ourselves? How do we picture ourselves in this relationship with Christ? This God that we serve, this Jesus that we say, “He is the Christ, the son of the Living God?” Where do we see ourselves in that relationship? In Philippians—I like how Paul puts it, in Philippians, four, twelve:

**Philippians 4:12-13** *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Paul didn't have an easy life. Paul had a made up mind. Paul knew what he was doing. Paul didn't have what we have, our luxury of a house, and a garage, and a truck, and a car in the driveway, and the dog, and the 2.5 kids; how we look at things. But Paul knew where he was, and Who he served, and, he knew where his strength came from. Knowing who we are to God is important, because it helps us choose how we live. There's references throughout the Scriptures to being a servant. And, we have a—we look for a job, we go to the boss, we give a resume, and they look at it, and they give us an offer, and they choose us. And, then we give—we look at that and we make a choice whether to be, basically, a servant to that man, for money. It's not a servant as in a bought servant, or a conquered servant, but a choice to serve that man. To serve that company, to serve that interest, to do this task for money. We'll look at John, fifteen. So, who are we to Christ? How do I see myself in a relationship, as a son? As a daughter? An outcast? An heir? Do I see myself as weak or strong, empowered, worthy, unworthy? How do I view myself in that relationship? I'm going to read John, fifteen, verses fourteen through sixteen; Jesus said:

**John 15:14-16** *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends;*

*for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

So we've been given the right to be an heir to the kingdom of God. We have that salvation, we have a promise, we have a home prepared for us. And, we look at—how many of you ever had in the back of your head, or thought about, or daydreamed about having, getting that email, or getting that text from a rich uncle? You know? Yeah, we've all been there. But, that ain't going to happen. But this is a promise we have. This isn't something we have to fantasize about, or daydream about. We can daydream about it, because we know the end of it. We can read the Scriptures, we can read the Bible cover to cover, we can pray, we can seek the Spirit of God; we know the end of this story. The end of my finances between now and the time till they put me in the ground, I have no idea what that story is going to be like. But this one, I know. I know that my intention is to leave my children and my grandchildren my inheritance. I have no idea between now and the next few years what's going to happen. I may leave them a pile of debt, who knows? I've heard the saying, "I'm going to spend my grandkids money now." But, we have an inheritance, we have something that's sure. I look at my parents, and I wonder what the inheritance is going to be there. It's just flesh, we don't know. Because my dad is living off of his money, and I'm glad he's comfortable; I'm glad he's doing what he's doing. If he's happy the rest of his life, so be it, if I don't get a penny from him. But I don't know, that's unsure. But I am an heir of Christ. Who do I say that I am? Who do I say that God is, and what does that make me to Him? Because, if we don't have that Vision, if we don't have understand that, we don't live in that promise; we don't live in that understanding of knowing who Christ is.

Next part of this, how do I know? How do I know if I'm in this? I say God is my Father. We have all the description of who God is. Wonderful, counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, the Head of the church. Is he the Head of my life? How do I know? John, three, verse six. And, this is, it's a spiritual thing. A lot of people look at their careers, their life, punch this button, do this, get this job, get this qualification over here, and some people want to take church as that type of direction. But, that's not where this is; this is spiritual. This is something that we get on our knees to God and say, "God, fill me." And, we have a promise, because when Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn (Mark 15:37-38). We have access, as the priest had access. We have access to God; we no longer have to have a priest go offer a sacrifice. As the church, the body, our body, a living sacrifice. Everyday. Doing it for him. That's our sacrifice now. We come before God, and God can pour out his Spirit on us without having to take and kill another animal for that sin. Because, we have a sacrifice, we have that Perfect Sacrifice made for us, that no one can top, no one can sacrifice something that would be the total end all, except for what God gave us as His Son. And John, three, six through eight:

**John 3:6-8** *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

Born again. We have to start somewhere. Nicodemus was a little confused in this story, by, "What? Go back in my mother's womb and be born again?" This is a choice we make. When women are going into labor and having a child, that child has no choice whatsoever. It's a done deal. That birth is going to happen. And, sometimes women try to put it off, and they say "I want to have it on this date," not get to the hospital fast enough. They had births in taxi cabs, elevators, sports events, airplanes... Once that process starts, there's no choice in that matter. But, this birth, this being born again, being born of the spirit, that's a choice, we have to make

that. We have to choose to live for God. And it's more than just baptism. We talk a lot about baptism; I know we've heard a lot about it, and that's part of it, that's our birth. But, it's an everyday thing; it's living by God's spirit. The birth is just the start. And, unless a child is born, that life doesn't truly start. You know, nine months, it's over, get out. That's where that's got to start. In our walk with Christ can't start until that birth happens. But, that's a choice. And, Romans, six, four, it says:

**Romans 6:4** *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

So, the spiritual thing, what's that all about? It's about living, there, every day. In Romans, eight, sixteen, it says:

**Romans 8:16-18** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

We're born into an eternal family; we've got that inheritance. And, I want to bring up one more Scripture that just references spirituality. We have to walk in the spirit. We can walk in the spirit, or walk according to the flesh. Even after we're born again, we can choose to walk outside of our family. A child is born, you know, they grow up, they can choose, "Hey, I can leave this family," at their peril. I mean, human beings, I mean, it takes years before child is ready to leave the family. You take a one-year-old child, that child cannot exist outside of the mother and father's care. It's not going to live. And, even up through sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, they're still developing. Of course, I remember back in those days well enough to know that I didn't believe it, I thought when I was sixteen I was good to go. That's good, I'm done. But, my parents knew better. They knew that I needed some things, even if I didn't like it. And as we grow and as we decide to stay in this family, and sometimes we walk away from it, sometimes we stray out of it, and, just like our parents did, pull us back in, sometimes snatch us up and bring us back in. Sometimes in ways that we really didn't like to have it done. But our parents knew what was best for us. And, God knows what's best for us. And, I'm reminded, going back to this subtitle that I gave, the self-evaluation. where am I at? If I'm getting smacked around, "God, what's going on here?" Maybe I'm not living inside of the, what my inheritance is supposed to be. I'm not living in that family the way I'm supposed to be. Who do we say that God is? Who do we say that Christ is? Is He the Head of the church? Is He Head of my life? And, I want to reference one more story before I close, and it's in Matthew twenty-five. Ten women, virgins, pure, waiting for the bridegroom. Five had their lamps trimmed, or had their lamps ready to go with oil; five, not so much. The call was made, the bridegroom comes. Five trimmed their lamps; five ran out of oil. The five that ran out of oil, said, "Give us of yours. Give me what you've got." Now, I can share things with you, but I can't give you of my spirit. I can share with it; I can pray for you. I've heard it said, "I can pray for you, but I can't pray for you." We pray for people in the altar; we can pray for you, but we can't pray for you. I can't give you my spirit. I can pray for you; I can let my spirit guide me to say the things that I should say. I can let my spirit do the things that would minister to you, as well as the rest of you can. I'm looking at a congregation that, that I know we're going to continue to grow because our fellowship; that's her name, Christian Fellowship. We can give of ourselves to one another, because we have the spirit of Christ in us. We know that this is a family. We are the body of Christ. And, we have all these things in our body. I have the things in my personal body, and we have the things right here in this body. We

have the things that we need to minister one to another. We have the things we need to lift each other up. Kirk talked about all the things in the body of Christ. I can't deliver those things, I can't be part of this body, I can be part of Christian Fellowship congregation, I can come sit in this chair, I can come to your prayer meetings, I can come to your Bible studies, I can do all those things, but if I'm not part of Christ, if I'm not living within what God gave me, if I'm not following that Spirit, if I'm not walking in the spirit, and in Galatians, five, twenty-one through twenty-three, these are the fruits of the spirit, I should say fruit of the spirit. We all envision a tree, when we talk about a fruit of the spirit, maybe an apple or a pear. But, all these things are, we have one fruit, and this fruit is all of these things. Envyings, can be, it can be:

**Galatians 5:21-23** *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit [if I'm a tree and the fruit that's on my vine is of God's Spirit] is love [does my fruit have love?], joy [do I have joy? Joy is not happiness. I'm not happy all the time. Go to work, go out to go to work, and I got a flat tire, I'm not happy. I've still got joy, I still know who God is], peace, longsuffering [sometimes we want to pray for other people and their long-suffering. Sometimes I want to say God, help me with my long-suffering. And, sometimes it takes some self-evaluation to look in the mirror and say, "Where am I at God?" For every last one of these things, I can say, am I living in God's Spirit? Am I walking in the spirit? Am I following it? Am I living peaceably? Am I in God's Spirit? Am I lacking long-suffering? Do I truly have all of God's spirit that I need? I know I'm stepping on toes, and mine are curling back, too. Do I have], gentleness, goodness, [do I have] faith [Do I have faith? Am I walking in God's spirit?], Meekness [am I walking in God's spirit?], temperance [am I walking in God's spirit?]: against such there is no law.*

My encouragement for us as a church is that we continue to walk in the spirit as individuals. Seeking God, seeking Scriptures out. Getting into the Word. Sharing it with each other, I want to tell you right now that the best fellowship I've had are the ones on Saturday mornings when we get together and we put out and we break up and groups and have topics, and we all sit down together and put together our own little Bible study on the spot. That's some of the best fellowship we have. And, we all feed off of each other. That doesn't have to wait for Saturday morning men's fellowship to do that, and I'm saying shame on me just as much, because we all need to do that. But, getting into the Word, knowing the Word, getting the fellowship. And then, we have that, in our lives. I have those gifts. Kirk talked about the gifts, talked about the things in our lives. Then, we start to manifest those things, then we start to work together as a whole, as a group, as a body. Because those things are manifest in your life, not because you're part of a church, but because you're walking after God's spirit. And, then God takes those things to benefit every last one of us. I get to benefit from you. And, that's my encouragement for today. Self-evaluation. Who do I say that Jesus is, and what does that make me? Amen.