



Welcome! We're so glad you're here tonight and excited to see what God is going to do! For the next few minutes, we're going to open God's Word and talk about the most important question in life. Depending on who you are, how old you are, or what phase of life you're in, your idea of the most important question may be a little different. Back in elementary school, your most important questions about life may have been: where are my toys and what's for lunch? In middle school, your most important questions in life may be: who are my friends and what's for dinner? If you're in high school right now, your most important questions are probably: who do I like, who likes me and what am I doing after graduation?

All of these are great questions, but they pale in comparison to the most important question, the one that really matters: **WHO IS JESUS?** Not just who is Jesus to you or who is Jesus to your parents or who do you want Him to be. Rather, who is this man, Jesus Christ that we sing about and talk about. The reality is there are a lot of different views about who Jesus is today.

Some people would say that He is a **FICTIONAL CHARACTER**. In this view, Jesus is just someone that churches made up to keep people in line, but He is really no different than the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy or Santa Claus. Other people would see Him as just a **HISTORICAL FIGURE**. Since they can verify His existence outside of just the Bible, many people would agree that He really was a man who lived a long time ago. However, they would say He is no different than Plato, Aristotle, or even Abraham Lincoln. Another view is that Jesus is a famous **RELIGIOUS LEADER OR PROPHET**. Like Buddha or Gandhi, He had a massive following back in His day, but also like other religious leaders, He died a long time ago. Finally, some would say that He is just a **GOOD MORAL EXAMPLE** based on His life and teaching. In this view, people would agree that He has had a good and lasting impact on millions of people who have learned from Him and even imitated Him. However, they would say that the whole idea of miracles and coming back from the dead is absolutely foolish.

So, what about you? How would you answer this question about Jesus? What if your view of Jesus is somehow distorted?

[LEADER NOTE: This is a great place to tell the illustration about a famous painting of Jesus in Spain. Over time, the painting had become worn down so an 80-year old woman in the church offered to restore it. The new painting was completely distorted. [CLICK HERE](#) to read an article about the story. It works well to show some pics of what it originally looked like, what it looked like after wear/tear and then what it looked like after it was “restored.” You could wrap up the illustration by saying: “I’m no artist but something in that last picture is off.” The reality is that some of us today do the same thing Jesus. Not that we draw really bad pictures of Jesus, but the way we picture Him is off, distorted, and inaccurate.”]

Tonight, we’re going to spend a few minutes looking at an accurate picture of Jesus. To see Him for who He really is, we’re going to look at the Bible to see what He says about Himself. **The way we SEE Jesus has a huge impact on the way we RESPOND to Him.** A famous theologian named A.W. Tozer once said: “what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” The most important question I want for us to think about tonight is: who is Jesus? We’re going to spend a few minutes looking at how Jesus answered that question and talk about why it matters. If you have a Bible or Bible App, turn to John 14.

By the time you get to chapter 14 of John, a lot has already happened in the life of Jesus. He had been preaching, teaching, and performing some incredible miracles. In chapter 6, we see that He had fed 5,000 people with only a few loaves of bread and some fish. In chapter 9, He made a blind man see and in chapter 11, He even raised a person from the dead! Everything was going great in the life and ministry of Jesus and He was having lots of success. He even had lots of followers before anyone had heard of social media, including a core group called the “disciples.” Everything was going great until around chapter 12 when things began to change. Jesus began talking with His disciples about what was coming soon. He shared His foreknowledge of his betrayal, denial, and later, His death. As you might imagine, this didn’t go over very well with everyone. The disciples began to get worried about what was coming next. They had to wrestle with the same question that we’re talking about tonight: who is Jesus? Not merely who they wanted Him to be or hoped that He was. Rather, who is this man that they had risked everything to follow? Everything hinged on the answer to that question and the same is true tonight. I want for you to listen to how Jesus answered this question because I really believe this is the most important question for us tonight. It

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