

Jesus

...

Who?



- Emmanuel
- Mother Hen
- The Highest
- Word of God
- Wisdom of God
 - Prophet
 - Rabbi
- Lily of the Valley

'Who?'



● *“It’s all very interesting—if sometimes confusing—and it matters. As N.T. Wright pointed out, “What you say about Jesus affects your entire worldview. If you see Jesus differently, everything changes.” Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” is an invitation to take personally and seriously the possibility that maybe we need to see him differently.”*

Dangerous Question

'Who?'



- The Fluffy-Jesus Danger

Dangerous Question

Matthew 16:13-20

Early Church



- Matthew community in tension with Synagogue & trying to understand itself
- Matthew community indicates the movement of Christ to a Title →
- Jesus asks community who they think he is
- Jesus also names who he is: 'Son of Man'

Scriptural Context

'Son of Man'



- Term is ambiguous
- Ancient Semitic Lang = 'human' →
 - Two possible HS Sources
 - Prophetic Tradition
 - Daniel 7:13-14: Apocalyptic
- Ezekiel 2:1: Grounded in sense of humility & danger

Scriptural Context

'Son of Man'



- Generally accepted that Jesus referred to himself as 'Son of Man'
 - So what?
- Daniel's Apocalyptic 'Son of Man' & Ezekiel's humble & dangerous 'Son of Man' was a recipe for subversion

Who?

'Kingdom of Heaven'



- Important to remember that though we might want the answer, Jesus rarely talked about himself
- What he did talk a lot about was the Kingdom of Heaven →
- Matthew 16:19: “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.”

Who?

Matthew 22:34-46

'Kingdom & Love'



- Fluffy-Jesus Danger →
- 3 kinds of love in NT: Agape, Philia, Eros
 - Love: Not passive, not emotional
 - Love: Philia: Brotherly love. Passionless
 - Love: Eros: Passion/desire
- Love: Agape: More akin to loving-kindness.
Passionless

Scriptural Context

Matthew 22:34-46

'Kingdom & Love'



- Fluffy-Jesus Danger
- People do not get executed for being fluffy →
 - People expected a warrior →
- Jesus stood firm: how we love our neighbour is the gauge of living into the Kingdom
- People expected a fighter, what they got was anything but ...

Who?

'Kingdom & Love'



- Where does that leave us? Who do we say that Jesus is?
 - What does that mean for us in the 21st Century? →
- This is the tension: People still want a warrior & how we love our neighbour is the gauge of living into the Kingdom

Who?

'Kingdom & Love'



- Jesus knew himself as the Son of Man →
- Jesus' ministry, as the Son of Man, was among those with the least →
- Jesus' ministry was not what the world expected: he modelled a ministry of subversion through loving-kindness →
- What is our task as Christians who name the 'Son of Man' as our guide?

Who?

'Kingdom & Love'



- Remember our Social Gospel History
 - Occupy Wall Street
- Address inequities of economic systems that:
 - Lead to the desecration of the earth →
 - Lead to devaluing human life →
 - Lead to militarisation

Good News

'Kingdom & Love'



- Remember our Social Gospel History
- Living memory of involvement in Universal Health Care →
- Recognising our mistakes in the Residential School System and working toward reconciliation →
- Recognise ongoing work for inclusivity, such as UCC GLBTT Consultation

Good News

'Kingdom & Love'



- Continue to live the Social Gospel →
- The Kingdom of Heaven LITERALLY begins with the loving-kindness we offer as Jesus's Disciples in the world

Good News