

# Let's Discuss...Jesus

## PART 2\_Was Jesus a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?



scan or click  
me to watch  
the video →

### Scriptures mentioned:

*The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."*

John 4:25-26 ESV

*"But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven..."*

Matthew 16:15-17 NIV

*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14 NIV

*...you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21b NIV

*...Jesus, who is called Christ.*

Matthew 1:16c KJV

the  
Discipleship  
project

## Summary

In this video we chat about whether or not Jesus was the long awaited "Messiah". Renaud shares about his season of wrestling with questions about the nature of Jesus. We also discuss some interesting misconceptions about Jesus, such as that he was "for the ladies" and "not a man's man", as Ian put it. LOL!

## Definitions

**Messiah:** the Jewish term referring to the promised deliverer/saviour of the people of Israel. In the New Testament, Jesus is revealed as the Messiah not just for the Jews, but for all humanity.

### Ἰησοῦς (iēsous)

**Jesus:** Hebrew name meaning "Jehovah is salvation" (also translated as Joshua from "Yeshua")

### Χριστός (christos)

**Christ:** Greek adjective and title meaning "Anointed One" or "Messiah"

## Let's Discuss...

- Although we may not use this terminology or have the same Jewish background in mind, in what ways do people in our society still look for a "Messiah", a long-awaited saviour from their problems? What are some of the common substitutions that people turn to, looking for the salvation we as Christians believe is found in Christ alone?
- How would you articulate the difference between "Jesus" and "Christ"?
- What do you think of what has come to be known as "Lewis' Trilemma" (that Jesus was either a liar, lunatic, or Lord) as he explains it here:

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis, **Mere Christianity**

- Do you or have you ever had doubts about the nature of Jesus, or whether or not He is the Messiah? How would you describe those wrestles?
  - » Read about some of John the Baptist's journey of faith in Jesus in the following passages:
    - Matthew 3:11-17 → John baptises Jesus

# Let's Discuss...Jesus

## PART 2\_Was Jesus a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?



scan or click  
me to watch  
the video →

### Scriptures mentioned:

*But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

Matthew 5:39 ESV

- Luke 3:15-20 → John preaches the good news, rebukes Herod, & gets put in prison
- Matthew 11:1-11, Luke 7:18-28 → John sends his disciples to question Jesus... notice, how does Jesus respond?

» *PS – If the experience of doubting Jesus resonates with you, you are not alone. Check out Alicia Britt Chole's message listed below, Doubt in the Life of Faith, where she unpacks these verses about how even John the Baptist questioned the nature of Jesus' identity. Alicia says, "I want to suggest to you today that in and of itself, doubt is not the enemy. I suggest to you that denial, far more than doubt, is the real demon." She goes on to talk about how being honest with God about our doubts and questions can increase our intimacy with Him and grow our faith.*

- Have you had any previous misconceptions about Jesus that you feel God has now cleared up for you? What were they, how did they develop, and how has He cleared up your understanding?
- Both Ian and NJ bring up the misconception that Jesus is not "masculine". Do you think this is influenced by our current cultural norms? Can you think of other ways in which our cultural lenses might distort our perceptions of Jesus?
- Given the many misconceptions that exist about Jesus, how can we as His disciples represent Him more clearly?
- Renaud says, "Jesus didn't come to make us happy, He came to make us whole." What do you think is the difference?

### Let's Pray...

*We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing Him directly just as He knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:12-13 MSG

It's no wonder we have questions and misconceptions while we're "squinting in a fog"! This scripture paints a beautiful picture of the clarity that we will one day have when the Kingdom of God becomes our permanent reality. Until then, it encourages us in how we can make His Kingdom more and more a reality in our everyday lives: "Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."

- As we go on the journey of allowing Jesus to give us a clearer picture of who He really is, let's pray that we will trust steadily in Him, hope even on our hardest days, and have opportunities to reflect His true nature to those around us by loving them extravagantly.

### Let's Go Deeper...

- **How Many Prophecies Did Jesus Fulfill?** by gotquestions.org [article]
- **351 Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus Christ** by newtestamentchristians.com [article]
- **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis [book]
- **Doubt in the Life of Faith** by Alicia Britt Chole [video]