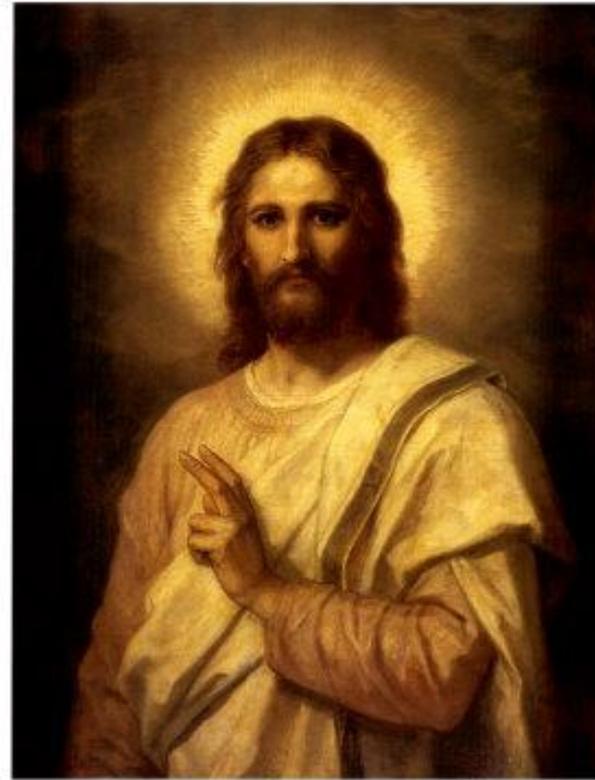


Who Is Jesus Christ?

*For God so loved
the world
that He gave
His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes
in Him
should not perish but
have everlasting life.*



THE SUFFERING
CHRIST BY RAPHAEL

Who do YOU say that I am?

- Fascination of people about Jesus' identity
 - Scholars – detractors & admirers alike
 - Witnesses of those touched personally
- Msgr D. Rosage – kaleidoscope of answers
- Pope John Paul II – Jesus is:
 - living proof of God's love for mankind,
 - living centre of time,
 - source of salvation & eternal life
- Jesus links his identity with the consequences of our answers (*Mark 8:27-35*) & with our salvation
- Pope Benedict – guidance of Holy Spirit necessary... We are the generation of those who seek the face of God (Jesus)

God says,

At the Baptism of Jesus:

... “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

(Mt 3:16-17; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22;)



At the Transfiguration of Jesus:

... “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!

(Mt 17:5; Mk 9:7; Lk 9:35 uses the word “Chosen” instead of “Beloved”)



Attributes

Jesus is the **Son of God**, having a unique and intimate relationship with God the Father.
(*Jn 20:31; 14:10*)

Jesus is **equal to God**- (*Jn 5:23; Philippians 2:6*); **holy**- (*Lk1:35; Acts4:27*); **Lord of all**- (*Acts 10:36; Philippians 2:9-11*). **Word of God** (*Jn 1:1-18*). As such he has all the **Divine attributes**.

Jesus is **eternal**, existing with God from the very beginning. (*Jn 1:1-2; 8:58*)

Jesus is the **Creator** of all things. (*Jn 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2, 3*)

Jesus is **God in the flesh**, revealing to us what God is like. (*Jn 1:18; Hebrews 1:1-4*)

Thus Jesus is also **fully human**.

“The Son of God...worked with human hands; he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin.” (*CCC 2599-GS22:2*)

However, the New Testament story of Jesus is never presented as a simple human biography but always as a **continuous interplay of the divine and the human**.”

The Angel Says,

Name: Sent by God, the angel Gabriel says to Mary in Luke 1:31 and Mt. 31 ...”And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.” *(Jesus is in Hebrew/Aramaic “Yeshua”, meaning “Yahweh is salvation/has saved”).* ...”All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, “God is with us.”

Jesus is called the Christ. The Greek “Christos” is the translation of the Hebrew “meshiah” or “messiah” meaning “God’s anointed one”, the principal means by which God’s kingdom is established.

Many other titles surround his name: Lord, Saviour, Son of man, the Word, Son of David, Lamb of God *(Jn 1:29)*, King of Kings

Jesus’ name is confirmed at the Circumcision: *(Luke 2:21)*



Mary & Joseph obeyed the civil as well as the Jewish law.

**They went to Bethlehem to register in the census.
Jesus is born.**

Birth: *(Luke 2: 4-7)...* "and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn..." (at Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph went to register)



Presentation: *(Luke 2:22-38) ...* "as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'... "and the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him..."

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him..." *(Luke 2:40)*

Childhood

“And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival...the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem but his parents did not know it... ‘Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.’ He said... ‘**Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?**’ But they did not understand...Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them... **And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour...**”

(Luke 2:41-52)



in the 18 or so remaining years before he began his public ministry, Jesus evidently **had a normal Jewish education** in the synagogue at Nazareth and became a village carpenter under the **tutelage of Joseph**. When ... “he began to teach in the synagogue, many who heard him were astounded... They said, ‘Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary ...’” ... “He was the son (as *was thought*) of Joseph...”

Public Life

“...Jesus was about **thirty years** old when he began his work...” *(Luke 3:23)*

His purpose in life was **to do the will of the Father, to save mankind**. “I came not to do my will but that of the Father.” Jesus’ role is redeemer and mediator of creation for purification from sin.

“...Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan [where he had been baptized] and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for **forty days** he was tempted by the devil...” *(Luke 4:1-2)*

“...Jesus came to his hometown and **began to teach** the people in their synagogue...All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth...”

(Mt 3:54 & Luke 4:22) But a short time **later...**

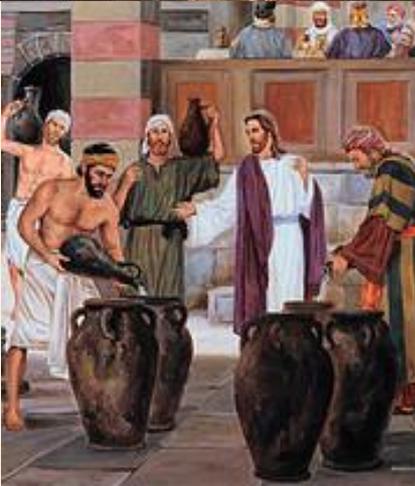
“...When [the people] heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, **drove him out of the town**, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built so that they might hurl him off the cliff...” *(Luke 4:28-29)*

“...When [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and **cured their sick...**” *(Mt 14:14)* “Power went out from him.”

John the Baptist Says,

Through the disciples John the Baptist asks: ... **“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”** (Luke 7:20)

Jesus replies: ... **“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them...”**



He was a **healer** and a **miracle-worker** (Mt 4:23-25)

He was a **teacher**. (Mk1:35-39; 6:6)

He was a **servant**. (Philippians 2:6-11) (Jn 3:13)

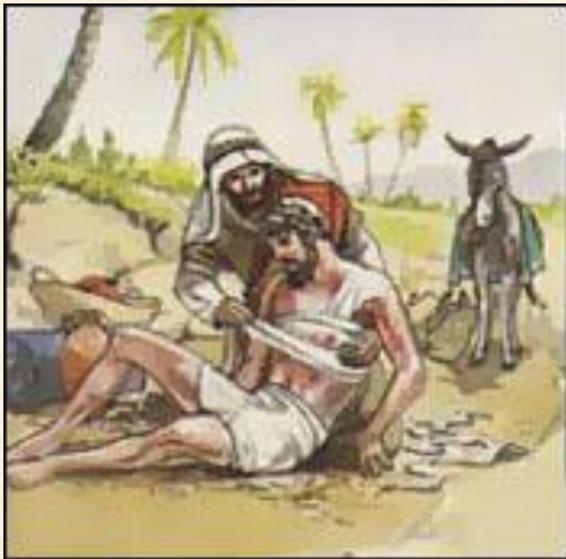
He was a **pray-er**. (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12)

He was **priest, prophet and king**. (Heb2:17, 7:25-8:6; Mal 3:1-4; Jn 18:36, Lk1:33)



Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7)

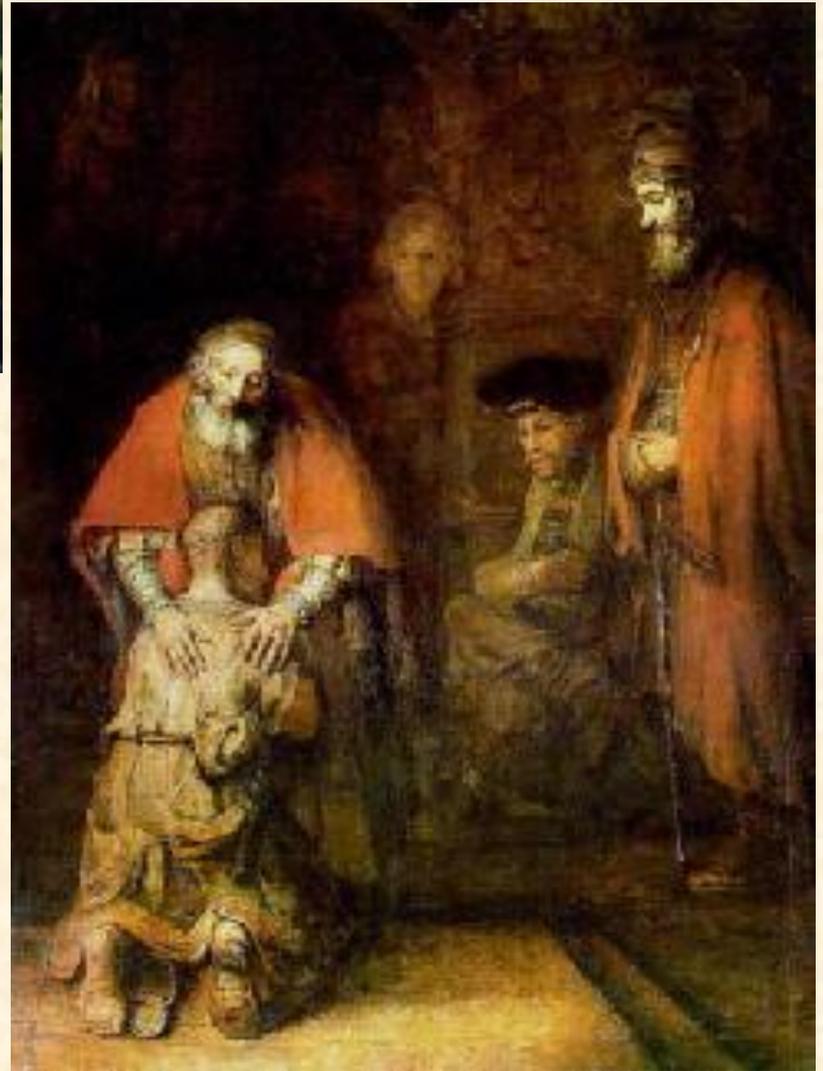
When Jesus finishes saying these things, the crowds are amazed at his teaching, because he teaches as one who has authority (Mt 7:28-29)



Good Samaritan (Lk 10)

Jesus tells **parables** to teach truths.

The Good Samaritan helped a stranger or person from another land. The Prodigal Son repented & returned home to a loving father.



Prodigal Son (Lk 15)

Jesus Says,

“Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, **I am.**” (*John 8:58*)

“Whoever has **seen me**, has seen the **Father.**” (*John 14:8*)

“I am the **Good Shepherd.**” (*John 10:1-16*)

“I am the **Light of the World**” (*John 8:10-20*)

“I am the **vine**, you are the branches.” (*John 15:1-8*)

“I, myself, am the **Bread of Life.**” (*John 6:35*)

“I am the **resurrection and the life.**” (*John 11:1-44*)



Jesus eats the Passover meal with his disciples the night before he dies (*Mt 26:17-29*). He institutes the Eucharist in the Breaking of the bread, says to remember him (*Lk 22*).

“I am the **Way, the Truth, and the Life.**” (*John 14:6-7*)

The Way – like that of a child (*Mark 10:14-16*) and a servant (*Mark 9:35*).

The Truth – through the Spirit who will guide us to all Truth (*John 16:13-15*)

The Life – that through believing, loving, we may have eternal life.)

Jesus says that whoever humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (*Mt 18:4-5*).

He says to let the children come to him & blesses them (*Mk 10:16*).

Peter Says,

Jesus asks?

“Will you also go away?”

Peter says:

“Lord, to whom can we go?

You have the words of eternal
life” (*John 6:68-69*)

Jesus also asks?

“Who do you say that I am?”

Peter says:

“the Messiah of God”



Jesus calls 12 disciples to follow him & to be fishers of men (*Mt 4:19; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 5,6: 9:1-6; Jn 1:38-51; Mk 16:13-17*). Later, Jesus asks Peter a question (*Mt 16:15-16; Lk 9:18-27*).

We Say, in the Creed...

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

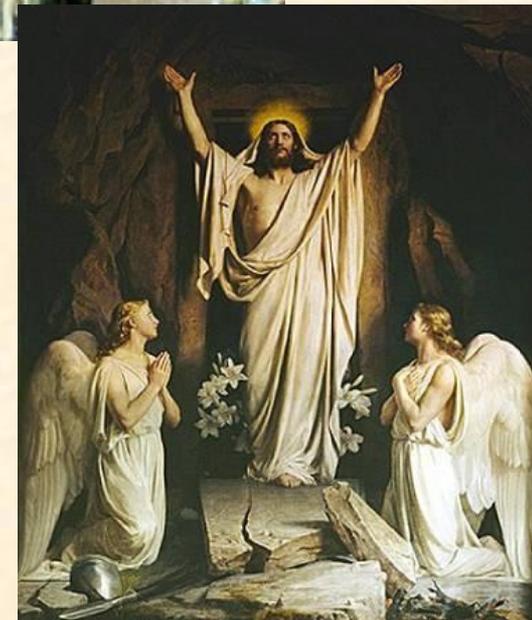
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.



Jesus Suffers: Jesus is struck in the face, beaten, blindfolded, falsely accused, makes no reply, found innocent, spit on, crown of thorns, purple robe, mocked, scourged, hands & feet nailed to a cross.



Jesus is crucified with two robbers. Insulted, thirsty. He dies for the sins of the world (*Jn 3:16-17; 6:40*). Darkness three hours. Temple curtain tears. Earthquake. Guards at tomb.



Resurrection: An angel appears to Mary Magdalene. Jesus meets with the women. Peter, Thomas, disciples. Tells them to teach & baptize all nation in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit (*Mt 28*).



Jesus appears to followers

Jesus appears to followers for 40 days (*Act 1:3*), to more than 500 at one time (*1 Cor 15:6-7*). Says all things must be fulfilled in the law, prophets, & psalms concerning him (*Lk 24*).

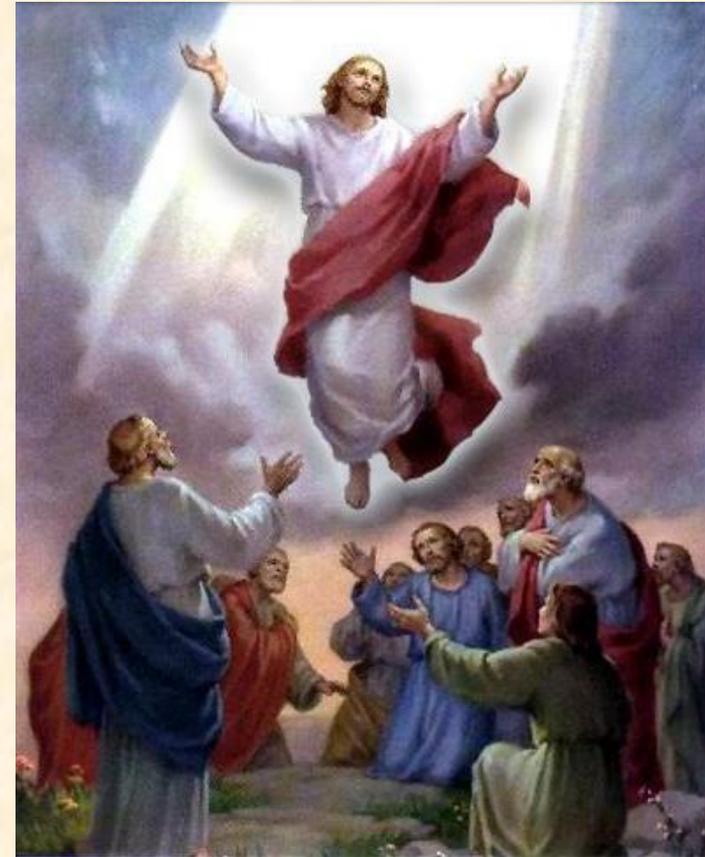
Help us Lord Jesus, to be more like Peter, who proclaimed you as Messiah & Lord. Forgive me, Jesus, for being too often like Peter, who tried to avoid suffering & the cross. Show me how to do as you have directed: To accept & carry the crosses that come my way with love, with patience & through trusting in your help & support.

Who do I say that you are?

You are Jesus, who loves me, & who I desire to love above all others.

Jesus, hear my prayer.

Amen.



Jesus Ascends to Heaven

Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will come & give his followers comfort & power, that they will be witnesses of him to the whole earth, that he will come again.

