

**"Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life" Series**

The Proof in His Life—John 20:30-31; 21:24-25

January 31, 2010

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Last week we began looking at Jesus' claim, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." How do we know this claim is true? Who is this Jesus that He could make such a claim? We considered the question of unbelievers which is "Isn't it offensive to claim Jesus is the only way to God?" We said about that question, "If we believe that the claims of Christ are true, claims in opposition to Christ cannot also be true!" Then, we turned that around and asked a question from the perspective of the believers. I hope you have been thinking about this question: "Isn't it hypocritical to trust in Christ and not believe He is the only way to God?" His death, if there is another way, is absolutely unnecessary.

I want to take our thinking to another level this morning and indicate that we have proof about Jesus being the only way, truth, and the life in HIS LIFE! All four gospels are a record of Jesus' life. All of the Gospels point to the truth about Jesus. Let's allow the Gospel of John to speak to us a bit today.

**Text: John 20:30-31** <sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name.

**John 21:24-25** <sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.

**This Man named Jesus**

- His eternal nature (John 1:1-3)
- His virgin birth to a woman named Mary (John 1:14; Luke 1)
- His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15)
- His death and resurrection (John 19-20)

These pivotal events in the life of Jesus establish two important truths about Him.

#1 He is fully human.

#2 He is fully Divine.

Since Jesus is both human and Divine He is the only one capable of being our Savior. (See also 2 Corinthians 5:21)

## The Message of Jesus

We can also point to the message of Jesus—what did Jesus say about Himself and what did others in the first century say about Him?

### What did Jesus say about Himself?

- In reference to the Messiah, “I am He.” (John 4:26)
- In reference to being God, “The Father and I are one.” (John 10:30)
- In reference to eternal life, “I am the resurrection and the life. The who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever.” (John 11:25-26)
- In reference to His death, “As for Me, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to Myself.” (John 12:32)

### What did others say about Jesus?

- John the Baptist: (John 1:15, 1:29-34, 36) **“Behold, the Lamb of God!”**
- Early Disciples: (John 1:41, 49) **Christ, son of God**
- Samaritans: (John 4:41-42) **“this one is the Savior of the world.”**
- Thomas—Post resurrection: (John 20:28) **“My Lord and my God.”**

The message of Jesus Himself and the message of others about Him clarify that He is the Savior of the World.

## The Miracles of Jesus

There are seven in the Gospel: Water into wine, Healing of nobleman’s son, Healing of man at Pool of Bethesda, Feeding the 5,000, Walking on the water in midst of storm, Healing a blind man, Raising Lazarus from the dead.

The miracles of Jesus confirm who He is, what He said about Himself, and what others said about Him.

**Conclusion:** I want to tell you a story, make an observation, and then invite you to make a decision. The story is from the Gospel of Mark. It's one of my favorite, but I tell you, until just a few days ago, I'm afraid I have always missed the real point of the story. The story is in Mark 2.

(Don't put Scripture on Screen: I want to tell the story. Just putting Scripture here in my notes for Chinese ministry)

<sup>1</sup> When <sup>(A)</sup> He entered Capernaum <sup>(B)</sup> again after some days, it was reported that He was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and He was speaking the message <sup>(C)</sup> to them. <sup>3</sup> Then they came to Him bringing a paralytic, <sup>(D)</sup> carried by four men. <sup>4</sup> Since they were not able to bring him to <sup>[a]</sup> Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above where He was. And when they had broken through, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic was lying.

<sup>5</sup> Seeing their faith, <sup>(E)</sup> Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins <sup>(F)</sup> are forgiven." <sup>(G)</sup>

<sup>6</sup> But some of the scribes <sup>(H)</sup> were sitting there, thinking <sup>(I)</sup> to themselves: <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> "Why does He speak like this? He's blaspheming! <sup>(J)</sup> Who can forgive <sup>(K)</sup> sins <sup>(L)</sup> but God alone?" <sup>(M)</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Right away <sup>(N)</sup> Jesus understood in His spirit <sup>(O)</sup> that they were reasoning like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you reasoning these things in your hearts? <sup>[C]</sup> <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: <sup>(P)</sup> to say to the paralytic, <sup>(Q)</sup> 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your stretcher, and walk <sup>(R)</sup>'? <sup>10</sup> But so you may know that the Son of Man <sup>(S)</sup> has authority <sup>(T)</sup> on earth to forgive sins," <sup>(U)</sup> He told the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you: get up, <sup>(V)</sup> pick up your stretcher, and go home."

<sup>12</sup> Immediately he got up, picked up the stretcher, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded <sup>(W)</sup> and gave glory <sup>(X)</sup> to God, <sup>(Y)</sup> saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" <sup>(Z)</sup>

Although it is a favorite part of the story, the point of the story is not the four men. The point of the story is that Jesus announced the forgiveness of sin first to set them up. What's the more difficult miracle? Forgive sins! But the forgiveness of sins is an intangible miracle. The healing of the paralytic is a tangible miracle. He did one to prove his ability to do the other. So, when the man walked, Jesus said, "I have power to forgive sins.

### **Take the Thomas Test!**