

## **Who is Jesus: Jesus on Trial: Pt 2**

Who is Jesus? Better yet, what to do with Jesus? I'll be honest here; I wrote this study in 2017. I decided to revisit this Jesus question. What I originally wrote is fine. However, I see so much more today. So, I have taken the 2017 material and modified it. It's not about adding or changing the original study. It's seeing Jesus in a different way. It fits so well because all the characters are struggling with Jesus. They can't pin him down. In-fact the whole Christian thing is a struggle. Let's get into who Jesus is in Pt.2 beginning in Luke at the last supper.

### **Luke 22-23**

We open slightly before Jesus is on trial. Why? It's because Jesus is always on trial. The rulers were looking for a way to kill Him. Satan begins to make his move in Judas. Two questions arise in chapter 22 of Luke. The first is who would kill Jesus? Secondly, we see right in the next verse: who is the greatest among the disciples. It's like they were all on trial before God. So much of this story is about who the characters believe they are in relation to God. Every one of them can't see Jesus as He truly is.

Jesus begins from verse 24 on in Luke 22 to describe who He is. There is the kingdom. Jesus must die for it. Jesus claims to be appointed by God. Verse 37 is ominous "*For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.'* For the things concerning Me have an end." They all think Jesus is the Messiah to take down Rome. Then we have the sword side story within Jesus' arrest. Who is Jesus? He won't take the kingdom by violence because He already is King and owns it. Yet, they all deny seeing it.

So many people believed they knew who Jesus is. The chief priests ask Jesus if he is the one. Meaning the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus says “*it is as you say.*” So, they beat him? Governor Pilot asks and Jesus replies “*it is as you say.*” Then King Herod asks to see Jesus. He wanted to see the miracle worker. Then when Jesus refused to perform, He is mocked, beaten, and whipped. A Man checking out the commotion (Simon) is forced to carry Jesus’ cross. He never knew the honor that it brought to him. Did He know who Jesus was in that moment? In Luke, the robbers crucified with Jesus are also chastising Jesus to help them if he is the Christ. They all claim to ask if Jesus is the Messiah. When He says yes they mock Him for it.

### **John 17-18**

Who is Jesus? I love it that the book of John is different. Why? John does not tell the story of the last supper next to the crucifixion and trial. The last supper story is chapters before. John goes deeper and gives us a hint of who Judas is. Jesus then reveals what the kingdom is like. He also declares who he is like in relation to God and man. Then Judas brought a cohort of guards with weapons. What, is Jesus: violent, aggressive, or an army? Who was Jesus? In this rendition of the trial, Jesus is before Annas and Caiaphas the priests. It’s like Groundhog Day. Jesus goes before Pilate and the guards. The people have turned on the savior they were looking for. Why? It’s because Jesus wasn’t their version of the Messiah they were looking for.

The most striking thing to this whole trial is Mary, mother of Jesus. She is silent before her son. It’s her son on a cross. She could have pleaded with them that he was God. Surely, she saw it in the life of Jesus. She remembered the angels, Magi, miracles, and teachings. A mother knows. Jesus sees her there and asks John to take care of her. Who is Jesus?

### **What it means?**

To me, it's gut wrenching just writing this stuff. Who is Jesus? To many, he was supposed to be King of the Jews. Jesus himself thought so. He told them all "*it is as you say.*" He told a woman that he came for the Jews. The Christ in prophesy was to come for the Jews. The problem was in who Jesus is to many people. We expect him to save us by our way and our standards. The Christ did come and he did save them. Just not the way they wanted.

Imagine a life preserver. We see them all the time at pools and on boats. If I saw you drowning, you might expect me to jump in and save you. I have read many times that the person trying to save another ends up drowning too. Jesus threw the life preserver. He gave us the one thing we needed. In history we have seen countries take over another country. Usually there is a ton of death and destruction. I have read about countries that changed internally. Usually, a new leader emerges that leads that change. A revolution that is violent is not always the answer. Sometimes a way through is better. An internal heart revolution. Instead of violence maybe we just need a life preserver.

Jesus was the King of the Jews to Judas, Mary, the Disciples, and many others. In one form or another he gained that label. Now, what he did with that title was perceived differently by those in this trial story. To King Herod, Jesus was king of the Jews but not king of Rome. To Pilate, Jesus was King of the Jews because he thought that was funny. Judas and the crowds wanted Jesus to be a military King. Peter wanted Jesus to reign as an all-powerful God. Jesus believed he was King. Above the cross it said "King of the Jews." Who do you believe Jesus is?