

“A Confession of Faith”
Matthew 16:1-20

Matthew 13:54-56

He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

John 20:30,31

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

I. Reject the Claims of Jesus

A. The Religious Elite

B. Jesus is Tested

John 8:6

They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him.

John 6:30,31

So they said to Him, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

I. Reject the Claims of Jesus

A. The Religious Elite

B. Jesus is Tested

C. Jesus' Response to Test

Matthew 23:13,15

But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

I. Reject the Claims of Jesus

A. The Religious Elite

B. Jesus is Tested

C. Jesus' Response to Test

D. Warning about People like this

II. Distort the Claims of Jesus

A. Question to His Disciples

B. What People Believed about Jesus

John 3:1,2

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

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II. Distort the Claims of Jesus

A. Question to His Disciples

B. What People Believed about Jesus

C. The Problem with Their Beliefs

III. Believe the Claims of Jesus

A. Peter's Confession

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

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D. Warning about People like this

II. Distort the Claims of Jesus

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C. The Problem with Their Beliefs

III. Believe the Claims of Jesus

A. Peter's Confession

B. Jesus' Promises

“The Catholic Church teaches that our Lord conferred on St. Peter the first place of honor and jurisdiction in the government of his whole church, and that same spiritual authority has always resided in the popes, or bishops of Rome, as being the successors of St. Peter.

Consequently, to be true followers of Christ, all Christians, both among the clergy and laity, must be in communion with the See of Rome, where Peter rules in the person of his successor.”

-Cardinal Gibbons

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Look at Jesus!

“The Person who walks out of the pages of the Gospels to meet us is just central and irreplaceable. He is always a surprise. We never have Jesus in our pockets. He is always coming at us from different angles ... If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what it means to be human, look at Jesus. If you want to know what love is, look at Jesus. And go on looking until you're not just a spectator, but part of the drama that has him as the central character.” - N.T. Wright

