



Introduction

Today we will be looking at who Jesus is, and specifically exploring the question, “*Is Jesus really the Son of God?*” Controversy has always followed Jesus.

Matthew 26:57-63 (niv)

At Jesus’ trial they were looking for false evidence against Him so that they could put Him to death. Finally a false claim was made that they could build on. And two thousand odd years’ later people are still making false claims about Jesus.

1. Jesus was just a good moral teacher - (**FALSE**)

Have you heard it said that Jesus never claimed to be God but that He was just a good moral teacher? It is a common belief.

2. Jesus is a Myth – (**FALSE**)

Another false claim made about Jesus is that He is just a myth. Two things can be meant by this.

First, it can mean that Jesus never actually existed in history. But even non-Christian historians and secular publications don’t even accept that theory now.

Another thing people mean when they say Jesus is a myth is that Jesus did exist, but His followers made Him out to be more than He was.

Jesus was good, but His followers created a myth He was God. To His followers, He wasn’t a liar or a lunatic – He was Lord!

3. Jesus is the Son of God – (**TRUE**)

The truth is that Jesus did exist. He claimed to be the Son of God and He gave proof of it in many ways.

Matthew 26:63-68 (niv)

Jesus had remained silent during the earlier, false accusations against Him. But Caiaphas who acted as prosecutor, judge, and jury makes Jesus answer.

He tells Jesus that He has to answer the question – *under oath* – if He is the Son of God. And Jesus says He is. At this moment pandemonium erupts in the courtroom.

What did Jesus say that just infuriated them?

As far as the religious leaders were concerned, Jesus just confessed to the ultimate crime. He claimed He was God.

This was blasphemy. Their reaction would have been justified if Jesus weren’t God. But He was. For Jesus to say He was the Son of God wasn’t blasphemy it was fact.

Let's put Jesus on trial ourselves, and look at the articles of evidence.

- **His Life**

Jesus lived a perfect life. He was sinless. Look again at this trial.

Matthew 26:59 (niv) *The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death.*

Even Jesus' enemies couldn't charge Him with doing anything morally wrong. They couldn't charge Him with one legitimate sin. He "*was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*" (**Hebrews 4:15**)
He "*committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth*" (**1 Peter 2:22**)

- **His Miracles**

Jesus referred to His miracles as signs. These signs pointed to Jesus' divinity.

Of the hundreds of miracles He did, one was especially important – He rose from the dead, never to die again.

Again, let's take a look at this trial against Jesus.

Matthew 26:61 (niv) *Finally, two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"*

These false witnesses had twisted Jesus' words. What Jesus actually said was, "*Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days*" (**John 2:19**) He didn't say "He" would destroy it – he said "they" would.

Furthermore, Jesus wasn't referring to the temple in Jerusalem, but the temple He had spoken of was His body. That He would rise from the dead three days after being killed.

Matthew 26:64 (niv) *"In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

- **His Prophecies**

Hundreds of years before Jesus came to Earth, many predictions were given about the identity of The Messiah. Jesus matched every prediction. **Isaiah 53** is just one example of prophecy that was fulfilled in Jesus.

Isaiah 53:3-12 (niv)

Jesus is the fulfilment of this prophecy that was written 700 years before Jesus was born.

- **Now What?**

Jesus once asked His disciples the crucial question in;

Matthew 16:15-17 (niv) *"But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by My Father in heaven"*

We too must answer the question – who do we think Jesus is?

Conclusion

James 2:19 (niv) says "*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*"

Intellectual belief in the existence of God is a start but not nearly enough. What is required is submitting to the Lordship and leadership of Jesus.