

**“Tell Me the Story of Jesus” #2
What were Jesus’ claims, #1**

Intro: If you are reading through the Daily Bible with me you will spend 30 days reading about Jesus’ life. During this time I hope we will gain greater insight into who Jesus is and that our faith in Him will grow day by day. With that in mind I want to accompany our reading with several lessons from the gospel of John.

Last week we looked at the foreword or prologue to John’s gospel. In it we could see that John presented four key ideas about Jesus.

Jesus is the eternal God who created all things.

He came into our world to illuminate it.

He was rejected by the world He made and even by His own people.

But to those who see His glory and believe, He is the source of light, life, grace, truth, and sonship. This is the story of Jesus!

But what made John reach these conclusions about Jesus? In the narrative that John gives we can read the evidence to support John’s introductory statements about him. So let ask some important questions about Jesus and see how they are answered in the gospel of John. On what basis did John claim that Jesus was the eternal God who created all things?

He claimed to have been in heaven!

Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world. They said therefore to Him, “Lord, evermore give us this bread.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:32-35)

And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. (John 8:23)

He claimed that He alone had seen God!

Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. (John 6:46)

Jesus was not denying that people in the past had experienced some revelation from God. Many OT characters had opportunity to “see God” in the sense that they saw “theophanies”, that is, representations of His presence. However Jesus’ claim to have seen God is very unique claim-- that He alone has seen God as He truly is!

He claimed that He alone really knew God!

Here it would be helpful to know that there are two Greek terms for “know” in Scripture.

The first is “gnosko,” a common word meaning to know by experience.

The second is “oida” indicates “absolute knowledge, the knowledge of intuition and satisfied conviction”

Jesus indicated that he “knew” the Father in the first sense (Jn. 10:14-15) and that we can too! But Jesus also claimed to know the father in another sense, in the absolute sense! (Cf. Jn. 8:55)

I know Him; because I am from Him, and He sent Me. (John 7:29)

He claimed that he was equal with God!

But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working. For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. (John 5:17-18)

In addition, Jesus associated Himself with the God of the OT who revealed himself as “I am who I am”.

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” (John 8:58)

Jesus claimed that He was sent to earth by the Father!

Jesus therefore cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. “I know Him; because I am from Him, and He sent Me.” (John 7:28-29)

Jesus claimed that He reveals the heavenly Father to mankind!

*“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him. Philip *said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (John 14:7-10)*

Conclusion: No wonder John presents Jesus the way he does in the foreword—*“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God”!*

Some Bible critics affirm that just as the Roman rulers “deified” their kings (apotheosis); so the early church “deified” Jesus after his death. The early church did not “deify” Jesus after His death; they simply believed the claims Jesus made during His life! Both Jesus’ friends and enemies understood these claims—some believing them and some wanting to murder Him over them. If they misunderstood Jesus, He never tried to correct them.

If Jesus really said these things, then one of three things is true!

Jesus was one of the most evil men who ever lived, seeking to persuade ignorant and naive Jews that He was God for his own personal exaltation and advantage.

Jesus was clearly a candidate for the insane asylum! He had lost touch with reality and made the kind of claims you commonly hear in a psycho ward!

*Jesus really was who He said He was—God enrobed in flesh, the very Son of God who came down to this earth!
Which makes most sense to you!?*