

**WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?
(Matthew 22:41-46)**

I. Jesus did exist.

- A. No matter what we may think about Jesus, there is no denying that Jesus did exist.
- B. There have been those that tried to say that there was never a man named Jesus who had followers, but that He is just a myth.
- C. The New Testament itself claims the existence of Jesus.
 - 1. Someone might say that should be dismissed, but the fact is that there are over 5,000 manuscripts of the New Testament all saying He existed.
 - 2. This is what John taught in John 1:1-2 as well as 1 John 1:1-3.
 - 3. Matthew and Luke both recorded His birth.
 - 4. Mark never questions His existence.
 - 5. Paul throughout attests to the existence of Jesus.
 - 6. James, Jude and Peter all attest as well.
- D. Jewish historians attest to the fact a man named Jesus who did miracles and lead a group of disciples.
 - 1. Josephus in His "Antiquities of the Jews" did so.
 - 2. The "Jewish Babylonian Talmud," which was collected in the fifth century AD said He existed.
 - 3. What is important about this one is that it is hostile towards Jesus, denying His deity and virgin birth.
- E. There are Roman documents that speak of Jesus being executed, worshiped and followed by many.
- F. It is interesting that those who, in the earliest days of Christianity, were enemies of it, never denied that Jesus existed.
 - 1. They used every argument possible to discredit Him, except to say He did not exist.
 - 2. They attacked His miraculous power, His virgin birth, His disciples loyalty and many other things, but never His existence.

II. Some view Jesus as simply a good man.

- A. Nearly four hundred million Buddhists are on this earth.
 - 1. They believe Jesus was a good man.
 - 2. Christian Scientists believe this as well.
- B. There is no doubt that Jesus was a good man.
 - 1. The scriptures attest to this.
 - 2. Acts 10:38.
 - 3. Think of all the people that He healed.
 - 4. Think of the happiness He brought to families when He brought their dead back to life.

C. Though Jesus was a good man, the Bible reveals that He was much more than just a good man.

III. Some view Jesus as simply a great prophet.

A. Islam is one of the world's largest religions with over a billion and a half adherents - roughly one in every four people on the earth are Muslim.

B. The view of this religion towards Jesus is that He was a great prophet but that He was superseded by Muhammad.

1. Jesus is mentioned at least 25 times in the Koran.
2. They teach that Jesus was born of a virgin.
3. However, they teach that His revelation was in effect until Muhammad received His revelation and that Muhammad's was the last.

C. Jesus was most definitely a prophet.

1. Moses said that God would raise up a Prophet like him (Deuteronomy 18:15).
2. This passage was applied to Jesus by inspired men (Acts 3:22; 7:37).

D. Jesus revealed to mankind what God wanted revealed, thus He was a prophet.

E. However, the revealing done by Jesus and the Holy Spirit was the last revelation to mankind (Jude 3).

1. It is by the words of Jesus we shall be judged (John 12:48).
2. It is His book that is going to be opened on that last great day (Revelation 20:12).

F. Though Jesus was a prophet, the Bible reveals that He was much more than just a great prophet.

IV. Some view Jesus as a good luck charm.

A. There are those in our brotherhood and the religious world who believe all that you have to do is have Jesus at the core of your religious beliefs.

1. They believe all you must focus on in your walk with God is the love of Jesus and His great grace.
2. Everything else is inconsequential.
3. If this is at the core of your belief in the gospel, you are alright with God.

B. Dave Miller wrote, "In this way, Jesus is used by change agents as a talisman, a charm, that has mystical, magical power in the mere association with the artifact. The person of Jesus becomes an object that gives them a sense of security as they wallow in feelings and sentimental sensations that arise by merely thinking of His person."

C. Long ago, the Israelites felt that if they brought the Ark of the Covenant into battle with them, then they could not be defeated.

1. This is the same view held by people who view Jesus in this way.

2. As long as I believe in Jesus everything is okay.

D. No doubt but there must be a belief in Jesus in ones life (John 8:24).

1. However, my belief is to lead me to act according to His word.

2. We show our belief, or faith, by our actions (James 2:18).

E. This view of Jesus, while acknowledging who He is, falls far short of what the Bible portrays Jesus to be and what our actions toward Him, because of who He is, are to be.

V. Some view Jesus as the Son of God.

A. This is the view of the Bible (Matthew 16:16-17).

1. This is what was told to Mary by the angel to be the case (Luke 1:35).

2. This is the stance taken by God Himself (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

3. The demons possessing humans understood this to be the case (Matthew 8:29-30; Mark 3:11).

4. This is the belief of the Roman centurion at the cross (Matthew 27:54).

5. This is what John preached (John 1:34).

6. This is the view of Jesus Himself (John 9:35-37).

B. This is what allowed Jesus to have equality with God (Philippians 2:6).

C. Without our belief in this fact we cannot be saved (John 8:24).

D. If there is no faith, then there is no pleasing God (Hebrews 11:6).

E. Inspiration tells us that Jesus is the Son of God.