Who is the Real Jesus?

**Intro:**
- Matt. 16:13-17
  - Jesus asked disciple, “Who do the people say the Son of Man is?”
  - some people said: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, one of the prophets
  - Jesus asked: “But who do you say that I am?”
  - Peter confessed: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- Who is the real Jesus?
  - University church summer series: “Defending the Faith”
  - this lesson: Who is the Real Jesus? – defending the faith regarding Jesus

Different fundamental beliefs regarding Jesus – this lesson, 3 major
- many ideas about who the “real” Jesus is
  - video clip: “Jesus Revealed” National Geographic, TV

- Jesus warns that many people will claim to be the Christ
  - Matt. 24:5 many will say, “I am the Christ,” and mislead people
  - Matt. 24:23 some will say, “Behold, here is the Christ,” or “There He is,”
  - Matt. 24:23b Jesus commands us not to believe them

- today, Jesus is different from religion to religion
  - some, we can’t know the real Jesus of the 1st century
  - some, Jesus was just a good man and a teacher
  - some, just a prophet or sage, nothing more
  - some, one of many Aions as believed by Gnostics (New Age)
  - some, created being, but not divine (deity)
  - some, God – Christ, Son of God – divine, deity
  - Satan has done a good job confusing the world. . . .

- our task, answer the question, Who is the real Jesus?
  - from the Bible, the truth, not from secular writings of man, often flawed
  - if you believe the Bible, you will believe in the “real” Jesus
How can we answer the question, “Who is the real Jesus?”

- **illus.: who is Allan McNabb**
- **designations (attributes):** husband, father, grandfather, preacher, volunteer, etc.
- **joke:** handsome, smart, good looking, strong, built, etc.

- **9** - many of the designations ascribed to Jesus (not all) – take many sermons to cover all

- **review PP:** not say every one, but take audience through the list
  - 1 Am (John 8:58), Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4), Almighty (Rev. 1:18; Mt. 28:18), Mighty God (Isa. 9:6), Eternal Father (Is. 9:6), Our Great God and Savior (Titus 2:13), Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24), Holy One (Acts 3:14), Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)
  - Creator (John 1:3)
  - Word (John 1:1), Word of God (Rev. 19:13), Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), Light of the World (John 8:12),
  - Truth (John 1:14; 14:6), True Bread (John 6:32), True Light (John 1:9), True Vine (John 15:1), Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11), Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5), Faithful and True Witness (Rev. 3:14), Apostle and High Priest of our Confession (Heb. 3:1)
  - Son of God (John 1:1; Heb. 4:14), Immanuel (Mt. 1:23), Son of David (Lk. 18:39), Son of Man (Mt. 8:20), Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32), Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)
  - Lamb (Rev. 13:8), Lamb of God (John 1:29), Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19), Passover (lamb) (1 Cor. 5)
  - Lord (2 Pet. 2:20), Lord of All (Acts 10:36), Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8), Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16), Ruler of God’s Creation (Rev. 3:14), Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5), Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15), Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6)
  - Savior (2 Pet. 2:20)
  - Propitiation, Atoning Sacrifice (1 John 2:2), Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9)
  - Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4), Eternal Life (John 1:2; 5:20), Living One (Rev. 1:18), Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4), Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
  - Christ (John 1:22), Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69), Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30), Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)
  - Firehorn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5), Firehorn over all creation (Col. 1:15)
  - Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2), Author of Life (Acts 3:15), Author and Perfecter of Faith (Heb. 12:2), Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)
  - Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4), Way (John 14:6), Gate (John 10:9), Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14), Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)
  - Advocate (1 John 2:1), Wonderful Counselor (Is. 9:6), The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
  - Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23), Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15), Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6), Chief Cornerstone (Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:7), Husband of the church (2 Cor. 11:2), Bridegroom (Mt. 9:15)
  - Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14), Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30) - cf. Pope
  - King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16), King of the Ages (Rev. 15:1), King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17), King of Israel (John 1:49), King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)
  - Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13), First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13), Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)
  - Bread of God (John 6:33), Bread of Life (John 6:33; 6:48),
  - Hope (1 Tim. 1:1), Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
  - Judge (Acts 10:42; 2 Cor. 5:7), Amen (Rev. 3:14), Lion (Rev. 5:5), Man from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:48), Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), Prophet (Acts 3:22), Rabbi (Mt. 26:25), Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5), Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1), Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)

- **What does it do for us to review who Jesus is?**
  - **feelings:** excitement, awe, wonderment, gratitude, thanksgiving, confidence
  - **commitment:** love, obedience, fervent zeal
  - **dedication:** obey at any cost

- **remainder of lesson:** review few designations of Jesus ascribed in God’s word
  - not get into the details of the Scriptures as much as in the past, but stress the application
The real Jesus is God and Lord and King – attribute setting the real Jesus apart the most
- the real Jesus is God
  - Jn. 1:1 Jesus is God – divine, Deity
    - the definite article, not translated into English, communicates that Jesus is divine (deity), in perfect fellowship with Jehovah, though a separate person
    - Jesus not just a good man – He is God
  - Phil. 2:6-7 Jesus, equal to God (Father) – not grasped but emptied self, earth, preach, cross
    - Jesus not just a prophet or sage – He is equal to God the Father
  - Col. 2:9 in Jesus, the fullness (pleroma) of Deity dwells in bodily form
    - Jesus not one of many Aeons sent from God (Gnostic) to show man how to come into contact with the fullness of God (pleroma), Jesus is the pleroma

- as God, the real Jesus is Lord – Lord: signifies having power or authority (Vine’s)
  - Acts 2:36 God made Jesus both Lord and Christ
    - Rom. 1:4 Jesus is Lord, declared by God to be His Son, with power by the resurrection
    - Acts 10:36 Jesus is Lord of all
    - 1 Pet. 3:15 our job is to sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts

- as God, the real Jesus is King – King: the chief authority over a country and people (dictionary.com)
  - 1 Tim. 6:15b Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords
  - Rev. 5:10 Jesus has made us a kingdom and priests to God, and we reign with Him on earth
- God allows each person to either receive Jesus as God and Lord and King, or reject Him.
  - illus.: parable of the landowner (tell story): Matt. 21:33-39, 40-41, 42 reject king’s son, kill him, punished, Christ

- illus.: Oprah Winfrey, TV show, one mistake people make is thinking there’s only one way to God
  - she uses her TV show to teach religion, as a disciple of Eckhart Tolle, promoting a religion founded on Gnostic, New Age principles, where all religions are accepted
  - in a piece by Joe Scarborough on MSNBC, it was reported that 33% of Americans listen to Oprah as their spiritual advisor over their preacher
  - Oprah teaches that there are many paths to “what you call God”
    - there couldn’t possible be just one way to God, because of people who live in remote portions of the earth who have never heard of Jesus
  - in a New Earth web classes, she taught from Tolle’s book:
    “Awareness is the power that is concealed within the present moment. . . . The ultimate purpose of human existence, which is to say, your purpose, is to bring that power into the world.”
  - Rom. 1:16 gospel is power of God unto salvation – brought into world by Jesus
  - 1 Th. 2:13 God’s word performs it's work in those who believe
  - 1 Cor. 1:18 word of the cross is foolishness to those perishing, but the power of God to those being saved
  - warning: this is representative of the newest religious movements
    - emerging church movement (“Christian” churches) / emerging consciousness movement (New Age)
    - feelings over truth (Bible) – experience over reason

- As Christians we receive Jesus as God and Lord and King!
  - Jn 1:1-13 Jesus
    - Jn. 1:1-2 we receive Him as God
    - Jn. 1:3 we receive Him as our creator
    - Jn. 1:4-9 we receive Him as the Light – not the light of Gnostic religion, but the true light
    - Jn. 1:12-13 therefore we are born of God, because we obey
      - Jn. 3:5 born of water and Spirit
      - Heb. 5:9 obedient to Jesus, the source of eternal salvation
  
  - illus: as Christians we receive Jesus for who He truly is – God, Lord, King – obey
    - song #179: Lead Me To Calvary
      - King of my life, I crown thee now, Thine shall the glory be;
      - Lest I forget Thy thorn-crown’d brow, Lead me to Calvary.
The real Jesus is our Savior and Head

- many different saviors in world religions
  - Buddah, Allah, Aeon, Seth, Hiram Abiff, Mother Earth, man himself

- the real Jesus is our Savior – Savior: deliverer, protector (Vine’s)
  - Tit. 2:13 Jesus is our God and Savior – delivered and protector
    - Col. 1:13-14 God transfers us into the kingdom of Christ, wherein we're saved
    - Eph. 2:5 God makes us alive together with Christ
    - Eph. 2:6 God seats us in the heavenly places in Christ
    - Eph. 2:7 God shows us the surpassing riches of His grace in Christ

- as Christians, we are waiting for our Savior to come, and take us to heaven
  - Phil. 3:20-21 we eagerly wait for a Savior, Jesus, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power
  - illus.: end of time
    - 1 Th. 4:14-17; 2 Th. 1:6-10 coming of Jesus, reunion and heaven, retribution with flaming fire
    - those who expect Buddah or Allah or Mother Earth to save them
    - those who expect Jesus to save them
    - believing in the right Savior is imperative

- the real Jesus is head of the church
  - Eph. 5:22-24 Jesus head of the body, church (Eph. 1:22-23), subject
    - as Christians, we are members of Christ’s body
  - Eph. 1:23 Jesus’ body is the church, the pleroma (fullness) of God, the only place man can find spiritual fulfillment (enlightenment, light, peace, joy, contentment, strength)
    - Col. 1:19 Father's good pleasure, all the fullness (pleroma) to dwell in Christ – cf. Gnostic
    - Col. 2:9 in Christ all the fullness (pleroma)of Deity dwells in bodily form – cf. Gnostic
  - Eph. 3:14-21 we are strengthened with all power, as members of Christ’s church, fullness of God
    - vs. 19 fullness (pleroma)
    - conclude by reading this prayer

Summary / Inv.
- the most important thing you can do is receive Jesus as your God, Lord, King, Savior, and Head
  - you'll obey Him, at any and every cost, and faithfully serve Him as a Christian
  - then He'll strength you, as a member of His body, to the eternal glory of our Father
    - spiritual life: enlightened, peaceful, joyful, content, strengthened

- inv.: if you’re not a Christian