

# Chapter 1

## Who Was Jesus of Nazareth?



The Four Gospels

(1) MATTHEW

(2) MARK

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The Son of God

The Son of Man

The Relationship between Son and Father

### The Four Gospels

Jesus of Nazareth has sparked more interest and debate than any other person in history. Even today, centuries after His death, people continue to study His words and deeds. Why? Because among other things, He claimed to be the Son of and equal to God. Was He? Or, was He insane or a liar? What exactly was His true agenda and why was He willing to suffer and even die for it?

This book will present evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was not only the Son of God, but also the Son of Man. He came to the earth as an Ambassador to demonstrate the way God the Father wants mankind to exist and deal with any situations that arise. Jesus' life not only was controversial but He truly was the most important human being ever born. Therefore, in order to draw closer to God the Father, we must begin to copy Jesus' behavior as much as possible.

*"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life/Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me you would have known My Father also and from now on you know Him and have seen Him'"*  
(John 14:6-7)

Jesus' ministry only lasted approximately three years. However, they were filled with so many teachings, healings, wonders, and miracles that it was impossible for a single individual to chronicle all of them. Therefore, God instructed the Holy Spirit to

direct manuscripts of several versions of Jesus' life.

*"This is the disciple who testifies of these things and wrote these things and we know his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if these were written down one by one, I suppose that even the whole world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."  
(John 21:24-25)*

The four books in the Bible concerning the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth are all different, yet they enhance each other by highlighting what most influenced each composer about His persona. Two of the authors traveled with and knew Jesus personally--Matthew and John. Mark and Luke were followers of the next wave of believers; those people who experienced Him only through their invisible faith, not their five physical senses. The Holy Spirit directed each man to concentrate on those situations that emphasized what he perceived to be the most important situations in Jesus' life. It is good to know something about each to be able to understand his approach: (a) what he included, (b) his style of communication, as well as (c) how he sequenced Jesus' teachings and events in his narrative.

Below is a synopsis of each gospel. The text of this book includes examples about Jesus that coincide with the premise of all four manuscripts taken together as a whole. Whenever authors were led by the Holy Spirit to impart the same situations I have combined them in order to present a broader picture of an event than each gospel does individually. The breakdown is offered at the end of this book, along with where each word or phase was taken, as well as its location within the New Testament.

## **MATTHEW**

Matthew was a tax collector by profession before Jesus called him to be a disciple. He was one of Jesus' original twelve main followers who lived with, traveled alongside, and knew Jesus personality and actions intimately. Matthew was a man whom the Jews would have considered to be a traitor to his own people because he worked for their hated conquerors--the Romans. However, believing in Jesus changed him radically and he became a major voice to transmit Jesus' gospel of God's love and liberation from hate and oppression.

Matthew's manuscript is the longest and was not designed to be chronological but thematic. His writing accented the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah of prophesy--the Christ, or Anointed One, the Savior of the world and eternal King. It specifically was addressed to a Jewish audience who would understand its value and authority as an extenuation of Scriptural revelations given before Jesus' earthly life. Matthew's intention was to point out the links between God's Old and New Covenants with mankind. He emphasized the predictions fulfilled in Jesus and gave numerous references and quotes from Old Testament. Matthew made references linking Jesus to the God of the Hebrews. He likewise referred to Jesus coming from the lineage of King David, or the "Son of David," thus enhancing Jesus' connection to those people. However, Matthew also demonstrated that Jesus was not an earthly king. Rather, His Kingdom was greater than David's was because it was not limited to temporary or

visible things. Jesus did not come to rescue the Jews from their Roman oppressors as they imagined, but from a worse, far greater, and invisible enemy, the devil.

Information mentioned in only Matthew's gospel includes:

- (1) Jesus' ancestry,
- (2) an angel's appearing to Joseph (Jesus' earthly father),
- (3) the eastern kings visiting the manger,
- (4) the escape to Egypt and return to Nazareth,
- (5) the Sermon on the Mount,
- (6) religious leaders asking to see a miracle,
- (7) the parables of the weeds, the hidden treasure, the pearl merchant, the fishing net, the unforgiving debtor, the two bridesmaids, the workers paid equally, the two sons, the wedding feast, the ten bridesmaids, and the loaned money
- (8) Jesus' command to pray for workers to spread His Gospel,
- (9) preparing His disciples for persecution after His death,
- (10) Peter finding a coin in a fish's mouth,
- (11) warning about feeling superior to others,
- (12) teaching how to treat a believer who sins,
- (13) the cost of following Him,
- (14) warning about the Final Judgment,
- (15) the suicide of His betrayer (Judas),
- (16) the posting of Roman guards at His tomb,
- (17) religious leaders bribing the soldier's to keep quiet about Jesus' resurrection, and
- (18) the great commission to spread the Gospel throughout the entire earth.

## MARK

Mark emphasized Jesus as the Son of God, and like Matthew the fulfillment of prophecies. Mark stressed Jesus as being a true human being, a Servant, and a Role model for people to imitate to draw ever closer to God. (10:42-45) Likewise, it painted a vivid picture of Jesus as a man of power and action, not primarily a teacher. As mentioned above, Mark was not one of Jesus' original twelve main disciples. He traveled with Paul and learned about Jesus' life and gospel second-hand. Mark's version of Jesus' life and message was addressed to the Christians living in Rome. Interestingly, it has been dated around 55-65 AD, making it probably first written of the four Biblical accounts of Jesus' ministry. Evidence that supports this conclusion is that all but thirty-one verses in it were quoted by the other gospels, especially Matthew and Luke. It is important to notice that Matthew, who indeed knew Jesus first-hand, duplicated many situations from Mark's gospel. If his versions had been erroneous, most certainly Matthew would not have corroborated them. Mark's is also the shortest gospel. There are no stories found only in it except for the parable of a seed growing. However, the book does contain insight and information that adds new dimensions or knowledge to the others.

## LUKE

Luke's is the most comprehensive gospel. It also claims to have been researched and written to be a careful, precise, and historical account of Jesus' life and ministry. Luke's writing style clearly demonstrated that he was an educated man. By profession he was a physician and in line with his career, he included frequent references to illnesses and diagnoses. His gospel also stressed Jesus' relationships with people, prayer, miracles, angels, and women. Luke portrayed Jesus as being truly human, yet still fully God.

Luke was a Greek, and the only non-Jewish author in all of the New Testament writings. He was a close friend and companion to the apostle Paul (formerly names Saul), which probably was the main influence for him to research Jesus' life. And, he did it like a reporter interviewing witnesses. Luke never met Jesus in person. Luke also wrote Acts, as a follow up to his gospel account of Jesus' earthly ministry. Both manuscripts were letters addressed to a man named Theophilus/Silvanus and the first book straightforwardly claimed to be an orderly account. It was composed around 60 AD, most likely after Mark's gospel.

Testimonies unique to Luke are:

- (1) a statement of his intentions as an author,
- (2) the circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptist,
- (3) God's angel visiting Jesus' future mother (Mary),
- (4) the events preceding and including Jesus' birth in Bethlehem,
- (5) angels appearing to shepherds on the night of His delivery,
- (6) Jesus as a child in the temple in Jerusalem,
- (7) His physical and mental development as a normal boy,
- (8) His cousin, John the Baptist teaching about Him,
- (9) Jesus being rejected in His home town (Nazareth),
- (10) a miraculous catch of fish,
- (11) raising a widow's dead son,
- (12) a woman anointing His feet,
- (13) women beginning to accompany Jesus and the disciples as they minister,
- (14) sending out seventy disciples to teach and heal,
- (15) the parables of the good Samaritan, the rich fool, the great feast, the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son, the shrewd accountant, the persistent widow, the prayers of the tax collector and the religious leader, the king's ten servants
- (16) Jesus visiting two sisters (Mary and Martha),
- (17) answering accusations about His power coming from Satan,
- (18) warning against the consequences of unbelief,
- (19) speech about hypocrisy,
- (20) grief over Jerusalem,
- (21) the deaths of the beggar and the rich man, and
- (22) Jesus on trial before king Herod.

## JOHN

Like Matthew, John was one of Jesus' principle followers. John alluded to the fact that he wrote his gospel to prove that Jesus was the only Son of God, and eternal life to all who believe in Him. It was written about 85-90 AD and specifically seemed to be addressed to new Christians and searching non-Christians. Over 90% of this gospel is unique, giving information not found in the other three. It includes no genealogy whatsoever, nor any record of Jesus' birth or childhood. It does not mention Jesus' temptation by Satan, any appointments of the first twelve disciples, no parables, nothing about Jesus' ascension into Heaven, nor the great commission that He charged mankind to spread the good news and continue His ministry.

However, John's gospel also has several major events not even alluded to in any of the others:

- (1) God being born as a true human being,
- (2) John the Baptist announcing his mission and proclaims Jesus of Nazareth to be the long awaited Messiah,
- (3) Jesus turning water into wine,
- (4) a Pharisee (Nicodemus) visiting Jesus secretly at night,
- (5) King Herod imprisoning John the Baptist,
- (6) Jesus speaking to a Samaritan woman at a well,
- (7) many Samaritans believing in Him,
- (8) teaching about fasting,
- (9) coming in His Father's Name,
- (10) His being the true Bread from Heaven, the Light of the world, Eternal, the Good Shepherd, the only Way to the Father,
- (11) Jews disagreeing that He is from Heaven,
- (12) many disciples deserting Him,
- (13) His brothers not believing in Him,
- (14) religious leaders attempting to arrest Him,
- (15) forgiving a woman caught committing adultery,
- (16) who were God's true children,
- (17) teaching about spiritual versus physical blindness,
- (18) religious leaders surrounding Him in the temple,
- (19) His friend Lazarus dying and Jesus raising him from death,
- (20) religious leaders plotting to kill them both,
- (21) washing His disciple's feet,
- (22) promising to send the Helper (Holy Spirit),
- (23) teaching about the vine and its branches,
- (24) warning about hatred from non-believers,
- (25) commanding to use His Name in prayer,
- (26) praying for Himself,
- (27) praying for all of His disciples (and everyone who believed in Him in the future),
- (28) Thomas denying the resurrection until he sees and touches Jesus,
- (29) appearing to several disciples on the beach after His resurrection,
- (30) speaking privately with Peter about how to treat future believers.

## The Son of God

Jesus of Nazareth never said straightforwardly that He was the Son of God. He acknowledged that God indeed had a Son, but waited for others state that it was He. This revelation came from varied sources: God the Father Himself, angels and demons, as well as other human beings. Jesus asked individuals Who they thought He was, answered earnest inquiries put to Him by confirming suspicions, spoke about the Son of God, and called God His Father. Yet, in all of the testimonies given in the Bible, Jesus did not ever say, 'I am the Son of God', not even once.

Why not? He told both Peter and Thomas that only revelation by God the Father and the Holy Spirit activated and perpetuated people's faith in Him, not knowledge gained through their five physical senses. Jesus demonstrated over and over Who He was, and it was up to each individual to make the connection. In fact, He would not even answer direct questions put to Him by John the Baptist's disciples, even though that man was Jesus' cousin, in prison, and more than likely they would never see each other again. Nevertheless, Jesus refused to confirm to John's followers if He was the Christ--the Son of God. Rather, Jesus directed them to see the fruits of His ministry because they should have been able to deduce the correct answer from His works.

*"When John (the Baptist) heard in prison about the works of Christ he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for Another?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the Gospel preached to them, and blessed is he who is not offended by Me.'" (Matthew 11:2-6)*

References that demonstrated God the Father's relationship to Jesus can be located in these verses of Scripture wherein He clearly referred to the Man called Jesus of Nazareth as His Son.

*"You are My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:1)*

*"This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5)*

Angels and demons likewise recognized Who Jesus was, and they obeyed His authority and power.

*"He will be called the Son of the Highest..." (Luke 1:32-35, the angel Gabriel)*

*"What do we have to do with You, Jesus, the Son of God?" (Matthew 8:29, multiple demons in Gergesenes)*

*"Demons also came out of many crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!' and He rebuking them did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ." (Luke 4:41)*

*"If You are the Son of God" (Matthew 4:3, (Satan while trying to tempt Him))*

The following are quotes cited by human beings believing that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. The gospels show that they usually did so after witnessing something fantastic, as like right after He walked on the Sea of Galilee. Nevertheless, they still doubted in His absolute care and abilities. He had to verify His identity over and over, even to His most intimate followers. They, too, disbelieved and often gave in to the social pressure of their peers. However, after Jesus' death and resurrection, His disciples became increasingly confident of Who He was, so much so that once they, too, were empowered by the Holy Spirit as Jesus had been, they spread His message to the entire world. This has endured for centuries.

*"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ--the Son of God." (Mark 1:1, Mark)*

*"I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." (John 1:34, John the Baptist)*

*"You are the Son of God!" (John 1:49, Nathaniel)*

*"Truly, You are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:33, the disciples after seeing Him walk on water)*

*"We have come to know that You are the Christ--the Son of the Living God." (John 6:69, Peter)*

*"Truly this Man was the Son of God." (Mark 15:39, a Roman centurion at the crucifixion)*

*"Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ--the Son of God--and that believing you may have life/Life in His Name." (John 20:30-31, John)*

However, there also were many people who scoffed at Him being the Son of God and denied that He was the Christ right up until His death on the cross.

*"The high priest arose up in the midst and said to Him, 'Do you answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?' but Jesus kept silent and answered nothing and the high priest answered, and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God! If You are the Christ, tell us!'*

*Jesus said to him, 'I am. It is as you say.'" (Matthew 26:62-64)*

*"Then they all said, 'Are You then the Son of God?'*

*So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am,' and they said, 'What further testimony do we need, for we have heard it ourselves from His Own mouth?'" (Luke 22:70)*

*"The Jews answered him, 'We have a Law, and according to our Law He ought to die because He made Himself the Son of God.'" (John 19:7)*

*"Those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, 'Aha! You Who destroy the temple and build in three days save Yourself! If You are the Son of God come down from the cross!'*

*Even the rulers with them sneered, 'He saved others. Let Him save Himself if He is the Christ--the Chosen of God!'" (Matthew 27:40-43)*

Remember, Jesus never said, 'I am the Son of God' to anyone, even privately. At the end of His mission, when taunted by the highest Jewish leaders, He gave the most direct confirmation that He had so far. However, afterward, when hanging and dying on the cross He kept silent. Although many pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover passed by and ridiculed Jesus, He never allowed His pride to overrule His Father's plan that He humble Himself and die as a sacrifice for humanity. Jesus easily could have done what they dared Him to do. To do so though, would have nullified completely what He was born to accomplish.

## **The Son of Man**

As discussed, Jesus did not specifically mention that He was the Son of God. So, what did He like to call Himself? He, and only He, referred to Himself, and quite often, as the Son of Man. No other human being or spirit ever called Him that. Why? Because that's why He came to the earth. Jesus as conceived and born to live life as a Servant to mankind Whose death and resurrection would become a Ransom from the kingdom of death/Death back into the Kingdom of life/Life.

*"Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and those who are great exercise authority over them, yet it shall not be so among you. Let him be your servant and whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.'" (Matthew 20:25-28)*

*"The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)*

*"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."*



*(Luke 9:56)*

*"Do not labor for the food that perishes but for the food which endures, for everlasting Life which the Son of Man will give you because the Father has set His seal on Him." (John 6:27)*

*"Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. He who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." (Luke 12:8-9)*

*"Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you have no Life in you.'" (John 6:53)*

Jesus also taught that the mission of the Son of Man was to show God's final and everlasting judgments to humanity, just as He had forewarned the first man and woman centuries beforehand in the Garden of Eden.

*"For as the Father has Life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have Life in Himself and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man." (John 5:26-27)*

*"The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." (Matthew 9:6b)*

*"Jesus said to them, 'When you crucify the Son of Man then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself but as My Father has taught Me I speak these things, and He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.'" (John 8:28-29)*

*"We are going up to Jerusalem and all things that were written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be fulfilled." (Luke 18:31)*

How did Jesus always please God the Father? Jesus constantly had to have acknowledged several things in every situation that confronted Him. He had to believe and accept God's absolute supremacy over His life. He also had to live totally by faith even if that information disagreed with what His physical senses informed Him. As well, Jesus had to believe that God not only heard every one of His prayers, but also would bring about those in line with His Word. No matter where Jesus went, or with whom He came into contact, He had to keep Himself in line only with God's thinking and always resist the devil's, no matter how persuasive.

*"The Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Matthew 8:20b)*

*"The Son of Man came eating and drinking...." (Matthew 11:19a)*

*"The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8)*

In order to fulfill His earthly mission as a human being, the Son of Man had to undergo the ultimate test of love--betrayal by one of His closest friends without condemning him for the treason.

*"Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you now betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?'" (Luke 22:48)*

*"The Son of Man indeed goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." (Matthew 26:24)*

Not only was Jesus delivered into the hands of His enemies who had sought to discredit or kill Him; He had to undergo many indignities and torture, too. He likewise had to pardon everyone else who took part in His suffering after He was captured.

*"The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." (Luke 24:7)*

*"Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil for the Son of Man's sake" (Luke 6:22)*

Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, the Son of Man finally surrendered His Own life to accomplish His mission to redeem humanity from Satan's influences on the earth.

*"As Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation." (Luke 11:30)*

*"Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come when the Son of Man may be glorified.'" (John 12:23)*

*"The people answered Him, 'We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever and how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be crucified?' Who is this Son of Man?'" (John 12:34)*

*"When (Judas) had gone out Jesus said, 'Now, the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him.'" (John 13:31)*

*"No one has ascended to heaven but He Who came down from Heaven, that is the Son of Man Who is in Heaven, and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal Life." (John 3:13-14)*

*"Hereafter, the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." (Luke 22:69)*

When all of the above had been fulfilled, Jesus mission was indeed a complete

success. Presently He is in Heaven with His Father again, waiting patiently and preparing places for us until God calls upon Him again to come to the earth in His Second Coming. This time, however, Jesus will not appear as a Servant, rather as a King.

*"(Jesus) said to His disciples, 'The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man and you will not see it, and they will say to you, 'Look here!', or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. For as the lightening that flashes out of one part under heaven shines on the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. But first He must suffer and be rejected by this generation and as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot. They ate, they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. In that day he who is on the housetop and his goods are in the house, let him come down and take them away, and likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife.*

*Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two people in one bed: the one will be taken and the other left. Two people will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two people will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left,' and they answered and said to Him, 'Where, Lord?' So He said to them, 'Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.'" (Luke 17:22-37)*

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see Heaven open and the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:51)*

*"They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." (Mark 13:26)*

*"When the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)*

*"Watch, therefore, for you do not know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25:13)*

*"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)*

## The Relationship between Son and Father

*"Therefore, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him because He not only broke the Sabbath, but said that God was His Father, making Himself equal to God.*

*Then Jesus answered and said, 'Most assuredly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself but what He sees the Father do. For, whatever He does the Son does also in like maner. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself does and He will show him greater works than these [healing a lame man] that you may marvel. For as the Father raised the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives Life to whomever He will. For the Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him.*

*Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him Who sent Me has everlasting Life and shall not come into judgment but has passed through Death into Life. Most assuredly I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the Dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will Live. For, as the Father has Life in Himself so He has granted the Son to have Life in Himself and has given Him authority to execute judgment also because He is the Son of Man.*

*Do not be astonished at this for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth. Those who have done good to the resurrection of Life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear I judge and My judgment is righteous because I do not seek My Own will but of the Father Who sent Me. If I bear witness of Myself My witness is not valid as testimony. There is Another [the Holy Spirit] Who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness that He witness of Me is true.*

*You have sent to John (the Baptist) and he has born witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive witness from man but I say these things to you that you may be saved. (John) was the burning and shining lamp and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But, I have a greater witness than John's, for the works that the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do bear witness of Me--that the Father has sent Me and the Father Himself Who sent Me has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form, but you do not have His word abiding in you because Whom He sent Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal Life and these are they who testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have Life.*

*I do not receive honor from men, but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's Name and you do not receive Me. If another comes in his own name him you will receive. How can you believe who receive honor from one another and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father;*

*(however) there is one who accuses you--Moses in whom you trust--for if you believe Moses you would also believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But, if you do not believe his writings how will you believe My words?" (John 5:18-47)*

Although innumerable people heard and received Jesus' teachings and healing many still became greatly offended at what He did. Those who scorned Him did so for a number of reasons. For example, whenever He cured a person on the Sabbath people considered that He was not recognizing it as a day of rest as mandated by God's Law. Since Jesus "profession", so to speak, was as a traveling teacher and healer doing these things on that particular day was for them working at His occupation. The people offended at this restricted His actions to fit their conception of honoring God's commandments. However, their ideas did not necessarily coincide with His Law because they were concerned more with works than faith. People were divided in their outlook and acceptance of Jesus. Some saw His compassion and power, while others saw Him as a threat to their way of life.

*"When He had departed from there He went into their synagogue. Now it happened on another Sabbath also that He entered the synagogue, and taught, and behold there was a man was there who had a withered hand, and they asked Him, saying, 'Is it Lawful to heal on the Sabbath?'--that they might accuse Him.*

*So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely to see whether He would heal him on the Sabbath so that they might find an accusation against Him, but He knew their thoughts and He said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Arise and stand here! Step forward!' Then He said to them, 'Is it Lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to give life or to kill? What man is there among you who has one sheep and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore, it is Lawful to do good on the Sabbath.' But they kept silent and when He had looked around at them all with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand!' And he stretched it out and it was restored as whole as the other, but they were filled with rage and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.*

*Then, the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him how they might destroy Him, but when Jesus knew it He withdrew from there with His disciples to the sea. Great multitudes from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea, and Jerusalem, and Idumea, and beyond the Jordan (River, and those from Tyre and Sidon--a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing. (They) came to Him and He healed them (too)."* (Matthew 12:9-15 & Mark 3:1-8)

Likewise, when Jesus said that God as His Father, it seemed to break the first of the commandments that were the foundation for the rest of the Law. If a person said that they were an offspring of someone, they also claimed to be equal to that person. So, Jesus referring to God as His Father was an affront to the people. They considered

God to be All-mighty, but distant. Although He had prophesied about walking among them, they never dreamt that He would look or act like a rather lowly born individual. A carpenter named Joseph was the male they knew had raised Jesus. Therefore, when Jesus stated that God was His Father not only did it appear to be blasphemy, it seemed also to be a lie.

Not only did Jesus claim to be equal to God, He also maintained that He only said and did whatever He saw God do first. He taught that He merely was imitating the behavior He had witnessed. That is to say that He never behaved contrary to God's will and conduct. This denounced many of the teachings and demeanor of the contemporary religious leaders and their followers. They regarded themselves as God's only true witnesses and keepers of the faith and Law given by Moses. However, Jesus demonstrated that the two stimuli acted contrary to each other. Therefore, both could not be completely truthful because human thinking and traditions had altered the people's conception of God enough to falsify Him in certain ways. It was vital to the established hierarchy to denounce, and if necessary condemn, the Person Whom they considered to be their opponent, not their colleague, and certainly not their Lord.

Jesus did not ever have to declare straightforwardly Who He was. The Scriptures, the prophets and their predictions, the Holy Spirit, God Himself, Jesus' words and acts did it for Him. These all demonstrated abundant cooperation that He was not a common person like any other human being who ever had existed until His advent. No matter how extraordinary people--like Moses, King David, or John the Baptist--had been they had shortcomings that did not fully illustrate the depth of God's faith and knowledge nor His eternal love for humanity, until Jesus of Nazareth