

Following is the outline from a message by Pastor Dave Tietjen at Evangel Baptist Church, Wheaton IL
www.evbapt.org, continuing a short series started last week.

Also available are the pdf file of the [PowerPoint® version](#) of the notes, as well as an [audio podcast](#)

Message Notes

“Putting Jesus in His Place – Part 2”

Matthew 16:13-17 (NKJV)

January 15, 2017

What Do You Think Of These Statements?

◆ The Authors

“I don’t believe in God. I don’t believe Jesus is the son of a god I don’t believe in, nor do I believe Jesus rose from the dead to ascend to a heaven I don’t believe exists. Given these positions . . . I did the only thing that seemed sensible: I formally joined a Christian church. . . . So I’m a Christian, sort of. A Christian atheist, perhaps. But in a deep sense, I would argue, a real Christian.”

(Robert Jensen, University of Texas, Austin)

“I have never been interested in a historical Jesus. I should not care if it were proved by someone that the man Jesus never lived or that (the) Gospels were a figment of writer’s imagination . . . the Sermon on the Mount would still be true for me.”

(Mahatma Ghandi)

◆ The Options: Journey of Discovery or Road to Perdition

How Should We Approach the Question: Who Do You Say I Am?

◆ The Obligation to Think Clearly Is Encountered:

◆ When Pressed by Jesus

He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Simon Peter answered and said, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** (Matthew 16:15-16)

◆ When Proclaimed by the Church

“Jesus Christ was complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man . . . in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division or without separation . . . coming together to form one person.”

(Council of Chalcedon, A.D. 451)

◆ The Opportunity to Think Clearly Is Presented:

◆ When Mind Followed Heart

“A deep instinct has always told the Church that our safest eloquence concerning the mystery of Christ is praise. A living Church is a worshipping, singing Church; not a school of people holding correct doctrines.” (J. S. Whale)

◆ When Devotion Requires Definition

◆ Theology (“theos” God; “logos” Thought or Word) Is Rational Thought About God

“Doctrines were hammered out by men who were on the work crew of the church. Every plank in the platform of orthodoxy was laid because some heresy had arisen that threatened to change the nature of Christianity and destroy its central faith.”

(Bruce Shelley)

Where Should Reflection Lead Us?

◆ To Alignment with Jesus’ Claims:

- ◆ **To Deity**
 “I and My Father are one.” (John 10:30)
 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)
- ◆ **To Divine Authority**
 - ◆ **To Forgive Sins . . . to Come on the Clouds and Sit with Almighty . . . Judge Humanity . . . Raise the Dead (Mark 2:10; 14:62; John 5:22; 6:39-40)**
 - ◆ **To a Demonstration of God’s Attributes**
 - ◆ **Omnipotence (Power Over . . . Nature, Disease, Demons, Death . . .), Omniscience, Omnipresence (Matthew 28:18; Mark 4:39; John 2:7-11; Mark 3:10; Luke 4:35; John 11:43-44; Ephesians 1:19-21)**
 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9)
- ◆ **To an Affirmation of Jesus’ Humanity**
 - ◆ **Vital Truth: Necessary to Redeem and Sympathize**
 - ◆ **Various Details: Hunger, Exhaustion, Emotion, Argument, Anguish (Matthew 4:2; John 4:6; Matthew 8:24; 9:36; 21:13; Mark 3:5; John 11:35; 12:27)**

From What Should Careful Reflection Keep Us: Error!

- ◆ **Of Ebionites: Denied Diety of Christ**
- ◆ **Of Docetists: Denied Jesus’ True Humanity**
- ◆ **Of Arians: Accepted Moral Teachings But Rejected Divinity**
- ◆ **Of Apollinarians: Human Mind Was Replaced by His Divine Being**
- ◆ **Of Nestorius: Denied a Real Union Between Divine and Human Jesus**
- ◆ **Of Eutychians: Denied Two Distinctive Natures**

The Conclusion to Which Reflection Should Bring Us

- “He became what He was not; continued to be what He was.” (Athanasius)
- “When we worship Jesus Christ, we worship God; when we hear the promises of Christ, we hear the promises of God; when we know Christ, we know God; when we encounter the risen Christ, we encounter the living God.” (Alistair McGrath)

The Path Along Which Reflection Travels: Faith

- ◆ **A Little (Paul) Advice**
 - ◆ **Faith Is No More Valid Than the Object in Which It Is Placed**
 - ◆ **Believing Something Doesn’t Make It True**
 - ◆ **Not Believing Something Doesn’t Make It Untrue**
 “Faith enables us to enter into the reality of that which is already true . . . it simply means to trust what is demonstrably true.” (Paul Little)
 - ◆ **Faith Is Daily Experience, Not Religious Property**
 - ◆ **Faith Goes Beyond Reason, But Not Against Reason**

An Everlasting Decision

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

(2 Peter 1:16)