

## Who is this Jesus who Hung on Calvary's Tree? **Mark 15:33-39**

Have you ever climbed a tree to get a different perspective on things?

**I used to climb trees to get more of a God-like perspective!** But what I've come to discover is that the most God-like perspective one can have, as a human being, is to see Jesus for who He truly is – the Son of God!

**I also used to think that climbing up a tree got me closer to God.** Little did I know that my proximity to God had nothing to do with me being up in a tree, but in Him coming down from heaven & hanging on a tree for me!

Like that centurion, God has given some of us eyes to see Jesus for who He truly is. He has also come incredibly near to us through the one who went to the cross to save our souls and bring us into relationship with the Father.

I'm glad I don't have to climb trees anymore – **the cross of Christ is all I need to be near to God and to see all of life through His eternal perspective!**

But how could one righteous man, 2000 yrs ago, accomplish all of this? He wasn't just a righteous man; **He was God in the flesh!**

The One who hung on that cross was more than human, **He was Immanuel!** When I say the word "Immanuel", you are probably thinking about Christmas, but there is no greater depiction of "God with us" than Jesus on the cross!

As a righteous "man", Jesus could receive the penalty of sin, he could represent us as one who became like one of us, he could even reverse the curse by fulfilling, where man failed, the terms of God's covenant with man. **But only a God-man could do that for every one of us!**

We believe that Jesus was the **"sacrifice, once for all, to bring us to God!"** But how could one man's sacrifice pay the penalty for all sin – past, present & future, for all of us?

The best that humanity has to offer is insufficient, only God Himself can!

Only an infinitely holy God could provide the righteousness needed to cover every sin & redeem every sinner! **Jesus had to be God to be an all-sufficient Savior!** Do you believe this bold claim - that Jesus was God in the flesh?

**"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but**

**to us who are being saved it is the power of God." – 1 Cor. 1:18**

Not everyone will believe this! Not everyone will reap the benefits of believing this! Not everyone will be able to see & experience this power of God at work in their lives – the forgiveness of sins & resurrection of the dead

**"but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God." – 1 Cor. 1:23-24**

**Why is the cross of Christ a stumbling block to the Jews?** Because of who Jesus claimed to be! Jesus claimed to be divine, the Son of God, & such a claim caused them to stumble, to say the least – **To them it was blasphemy!**

What about the Gentiles? Why does Paul say the cross is foolishness to them? Because **for those who trust only in reason, how can a man possibly be God?** And how can God become a man? It doesn't make logical sense.

But for those called, predestined, chosen by God from every nation, tribe & tongue, Christ is the very power and wisdom of God! He is Immanuel!

This is how a Roman centurion came to this conclusion about Jesus, the man he was given the task to make sure died a criminal's death upon the cross!

- To him, Jesus was the Son of God, not because Jesus didn't really die!
- Not because Elijah came down from heaven and took Jesus off the cross!
- Not because this centurion was secretly a closet Christian!

He believed that Jesus was who He claimed to be because **God the Father opened his eyes to see Jesus' true identity!** And if that was true for this centurion, it can be true for each one of us today as well!

If you want more evidence of Jesus' true identity as not only fully man, but also fully God, read the gospel of John & the perspective he gives on who Jesus is!

*"Matthew's gospel portrays Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Mark's gospel reveals Jesus as God's servant. Luke stresses Jesus' humanity. But in John, Jesus is revealed as the eternal, pre-existing Son of God, who became man in order to reveal the Father & bring eternal life through his death & resurrection."*

**But even John's gospel can't contain all the evidence! John 20:30-31**

You don't have to climb a tree to be near to God & see from His perspective, all you need is Christ, fully God & fully man, hanged on a tree for you!

## Who is this Jesus who Hung on Calvary's Tree? Mark 15:33-39

Have you ever climbed a tree to get a different perspective on things?

I used to climb trees to get more of a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective! But what I've come to discover is that the most God-like perspective one can have, as a human being, is to see Jesus for who He truly is – the Son of God!

I also used to think that climbing up a tree got me \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Little did I know that my proximity to God had nothing to do with me being up in a tree, but in Him coming down from heaven & hanging on a tree for me!

Like that centurion, God has given some of us eyes to see Jesus for who He truly is. He has also come incredibly near to us through the one who went to the cross to save our souls and bring us into relationship with the Father.

I'm glad I don't have to climb trees anymore – the \_\_\_\_\_ is all I need to be near to God and to see all of life through His eternal perspective!

But how could one righteous man, 2000 yrs ago, accomplish all of this? He wasn't just a righteous man; He was \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh!

The One who hung on that cross was more than human, He was \_\_\_\_\_. When I say the word "Immanuel", you are probably thinking about Christmas, but there is no greater depiction of "God with us" than Jesus on the cross!

As a righteous "man", Jesus could receive the penalty of sin, he could represent us as one who became like one of us, he could even reverse the curse by fulfilling, where man failed, the terms of God's covenant with man. But only a \_\_\_\_\_ could do that for every one of us!

We believe that Jesus was the "**sacrifice, once for all, to bring us to God!**" But how could one man's sacrifice pay the penalty for all sin – past, present & future, for all of us?

The best that humanity has to offer is insufficient, only God Himself can!

Only an \_\_\_\_\_ holy God could provide the righteousness needed to cover every sin & redeem every sinner! Jesus had to be God to be an \_\_\_\_\_ Savior! Do you believe this bold claim - that Jesus was God in the flesh?

***"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but***

***to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* – 1 Cor. 1:18**

Not everyone will believe this! Not everyone will reap the benefits of believing this! Not everyone will be able to see & experience this power of God at work in their lives –the forgiveness of sins & resurrection of the dead

***"but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God."* – 1 Cor. 1:23-24**

Why is the cross of Christ a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Jews? Because of who Jesus claimed to be! Jesus claimed to be divine, the Son of God, & such a claim caused them to stumble, to say the least – To them it was \_\_\_\_\_

What about the Gentiles? Why does Paul say the cross is foolishness to them? Because for those who trust only in \_\_\_\_\_, how can a man possibly be God? And how can God become a man? It doesn't make logical sense.

But for those called, predestined, chosen by God from every nation, tribe & tongue, Christ is the very power and wisdom of God! He is Immanuel!

This is how a Roman centurion came to this conclusion about Jesus, the man he was given the task to make sure died a criminal's death upon the cross!

- To him, Jesus was the Son of God, not because Jesus didn't really die!
- Not because Elijah came down from heaven and took Jesus off the cross!
- Not because this centurion was secretly a closet Christian!

He believed that Jesus was who He claimed to be because God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ to see Jesus' true identity! And if that was true for this centurion, it can be true for each one of us today as well!

If you want more evidence of Jesus' true identity as not only fully man, but also fully God, read the gospel of John & the perspective he gives on who Jesus is!

*"Matthew's gospel portrays Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Mark's gospel reveals Jesus as God's servant. Luke stresses Jesus' humanity. But in John, Jesus is revealed as the eternal, pre-existing Son of God, who became man in order to reveal the Father & bring eternal life through his death & resurrection."*

But even John's gospel can't contain all the \_\_\_\_\_! **John 20:30-31**

You don't have to climb a tree to be near to God & see from His perspective, all you need is Christ, fully God & fully man, hanged on a tree for you!