

2011SERMON I BELIEVE—JESUS, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD

Matthew 16:13-20

Today our series on the Apostles Creed

Looks at Jesus as **God's only son,**

Conceived by the Holy Spirit,

And Born of the virgin Mary.

Everybody has heard and knows these things about Jesus

So why study them?

A family took their first-grader on a car trip to Canada. To help pass the time, the little six year old boy practiced his new reading skills by calling out road signs. He fell asleep just before they entered Quebec. When he awoke, he looked out his window at the highway signs - now in French - and said in a worried tone, "Mom, I think I forgot how to read while I was asleep."[forwarded by Michael Grice]

One of the reason we are studying the Apostles Creed is

So that we don't forget what we believe

So we can confirm what unique about what we believe.

A Russian theologian said this:

In Russia, Christians are tested by hardship,

but in America you are tested by freedom.

And testing by freedom is much harder.

Nobody pressures you about your religion.

So you relax and are not so concentrated on Christ,
on His teaching, how He wants you to live."

Pavel Poloz, recently (1987)

C.S. Lewis said: More People leave Christianity

because they drift away, Then that they are argued away.

The world would like to lull us into a stupor,

So that when we wake up we don't know what we believe.

I. Who is Jesus Christ?

It's interesting that Jesus asked his disciples the same question.

He took them on a men's retreat up to Caesarea Philippi,

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" Matthew 16:13

Like any good retreat

Jesus was in a teaching mode.

He had an agenda, he asked them a question.

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" Matthew 16:13

If you want someone to open up, ask a question.

Too many of us like to speak

Rather than listen.

A question says: "Hey your important to me,

I want to know what you think."

The difference about Jesus question is that
 It is the central question of history.
 If we get this right,
 We get eternity right.

But there was some confusion to that question because
 The disciples gave four answers.

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Matthew 16:14

They were good answers of what others say.

But Jesus wanted to know what do you say?

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15

Simon Peter stepped up to answer

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16

Peter just parted company with 2/3 of the known world today.
 Many people across the continent who
 have no clue about Jesus
 And who he is.

J.I Packer notes that when the creed calls God **"The creator of heaven and earth,**
 It parts company with Hinduism and all Eastern religions. And when it declares that
Jesus is the Christ, God's only son and our Lord, it parts company with Islam and
 Judaism. This claim for Jesus makes Christianity utterly unique. (Growing In Christ
 P 39)

No wonder Jesus replied to Peter.

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

It's high time we recognize the good news we have and stand up for it.
 Just what does the Apostles Creed affirm?

I believe in Jesus Christ God's

ONLY SON OUR LORD

GOD'S ONLY SON

Not Maha Krishna OR some guru,

Not Buddha

Not Mohammad

Because the scripture says:

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on Jesus the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

Every knee will bow.
 Friends and enemies
 Here's the difference,

Not all will be saved,
 But all will confess Jesus is Lord.
 Same with us
 Whether you are a stud athlete or a studious geek,
 All of us will bow

I like the computer geek who, after he became a Christian said:

“As for me and my mouse, we will serve the lord.”

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, I Peter 1:3

Christ is not Jesus last name,
 Any more than President is Obama’s first name.
 It is his title,
 The office he holds.
 It means in Hebrew and Greek—
 THE ANOINTED ONE
 THE MESSIAH

Everything in the Bible centers around Christ.
 The old Testament says: He is coming.
 The Gospels say: He is here
 The Book of Acts says: He has come
 The Epistles says: He is Lord
 The Revelation says: “HE is coming again.

The second question the creed clarifies is

II. WHAT MAKES JESUS UNIQUE?

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.

FIRST OF ALL:

The doctrine of the Virgin Birth is clearly taught in the Bible.

The OT Isaiah says:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (God with us). Isaiah 7:14

The New Testament says:

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

The angel appeared to Joseph.

Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:20

First the Bible clearly teaches the Virgin Birth.

Second: The Virgin Birth answers the question

Who is the sinless sacrifice?

The Sacrifice for Sin must be a perfect Lamb of God.

The justice of God for sin cannot be satisfied,

If Christ was not sinless

Jesus possessed two natures.
He was God incarnate
Yet he was in human flesh.

Jesus did not have a human father.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
Therefore he had no inherited sin from Adam.
no man was involved in the process of his birth.
The Bible says:

**For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
I Corinthians 15:21-22**

In order to be our savior
Three conditions had to be met.

1. He must be a man- no angel can die for our sins
2. He must be an infinite man an indomitable man.
Because no mere human could bear the infinite price he had to pay for our sins.
3. He must be an innocent man. A sinner could not die for a sinner.

He is the God-man

**THIRD- The virgin birth shows us who is our savior.
That Jesus was unique from birth.**

John the Baptist said:

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

John the Baptist believed what Orthodox, Catholic, Protestants, evangelicals.
Around the world believe.
Jesus was the messiah.
And he was born of the virgin,
the unblemished Lamb of God.

Just because it is known around the world doesn't mean all believe and obey!
The virgin birth has been hotly debated and challenged in the last 150 years.
With the rise of Liberal Christianity,
It is the great divide of those who believe the Bible is God's word,
And those who don't.

A wife said to her spouse: "I don't want to brag, but here it is February and I've kept every one of my New Year's resolutions. I've kept them in a manila folder in the back of my desk!"

Too many people have kept their faith the same way.
Just a certificate of confirmation in a manila folder in their desk.

But even the Angels believe
That through the Virgin birth

And the work of the Holy Spirit,
 God became man without ceasing to be God.
 That is what made him worthy to purchase our redemption.

The angels sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Revelations 5:9

Christ was fully human and fully divine.

I like Pitchards illustration.
 If my white shirt represents the deity of Christ.
 And my robe or jacket represents the nature of man.
 Do I have to wear my jacket in order to wear my shirt?

I can wear my shirt with or without my coat.
 Jesus was always the son of God.

1. When he was in the manger. He was the Son of God
2. When he was walking on the sea, or feeding the 5000, He was the son of God
3. When he died on the cross. He was the Son of God
4. When he comes again. He will be the Son of God.

Nothing can ever change his essential nature.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.²He was with God in the beginning, John 1:1-2

The shirt represents his divinity.

Now
 the Coat represents his humanity,
 When he became man, he put on human flesh.

Now (put coat on)

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,^{F4} who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1,10,14

Did taking on human form nullify his divinity.
 Did putting on the jacket nullify my wearing a shirt?

No

This is no trick.
 I'm not David Copperfield.
 You can't see the shirt under the robe ,
 But it is still there. But its easy to miss.

That is why so many people miss who Jesus was.
 They see only his coat of humanity
 And assume it was all there was.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. John 1:10

John says:
 That is the unchanging quality of Only Son of God
 We have a choice.
 We either believe it all or we reject it all.

¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:11-12

But the good news is:

¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³children born not of natural descent, ^{F3} nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:11-12

Isaiah clearly taught 700 years before Christ birth
That Jesus was to be born of the virgin.

Ray Pitchard summarizes in his book CREDO the virgin birth clarifies for us.

1. This was the direct action of God.
2. No man was involved in the process.
3. He had a human mother
4. He had divine father
5. He was without sin.

So He could die as the atoning sacrifice for our sin.
Lamb without Blemish.

That is the connection between the manger and the cross.

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

No mortal man could do this.

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake I Peter 1:18-20

Today If you do not accept Jesus as God's only Son

Conceived by the Holy Spirit

Born of the Virgin Mary.

Then who do you accept to take away your sins.

Who will be your advocate, your lawyer when you stand before the judgment?

Jesus is Gods' Only Son

Our Savior and Our Lord.

Will you trust God's holy word.

Will you trust the apostolic teaching of our faith.

If So

Will you join me in affirming our faith.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

Born of the Virgin Mary.