Jesus' Claims About Himself

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday October 25, 2026

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http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/

Opening Material

Welcome!

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

Transition

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are finishing John 8.
- We will have Life Group after the message.

Thoughts

Video

- Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking | Chase Freedom Unlimited - YouTube (00:00:30)
- Talking About Making Disciples - YouTube (00:00:25)

Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer

- **Cultural Rivers**

Overview

In today's message we will do the following:

- Why are we here?
  - Acts 2:36-39
  - Acts 17:29-31
- Review our passage - John 8:48-59
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.

Opening Material

Why are we here?

- Acts 2:29-39 - Spoken to Jews

"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it**. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.
For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,
" 'The Lord said to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet." '
"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**"
When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
Peter replied, **"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles

"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**"

Welcome to John!

- Video
  - Bible Project: John 1-12 - (00:08:46)
- John 20:30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- John 21:25

  Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Embrace Jesus' Mission

Jesus' mission, (expressed in the synoptic gospels) still applies.

- Matthew 4:17 – "Repent, for the Kingdom of God has come near!"
- Mark 1:14-15 – "The Kingdom of God has come near . . ."
- Luke 4:14-21 – "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . ."

Feed on the Life of Jesus

- **Are you "worded up"?**
- **Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17**
- **Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?**

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 – 10/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 – 11/24)
- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 – 1/28)

For October this means:

- No Mark reading on October 24 (yesterday).
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- etc.

- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?

- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

Making Disciples:

A Disciple is someone who is:

- Following Jesus - Matthew 4:12-22
- Being changed by Jesus - Matthew 5 - 7
- Committed to the mission of Jesus - Matthew 9:35 - 10:15

- **We want to establish a disciple-making community.**

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

- **What You Should Know About Moralistic Therapeutic Deism - YouTube (00:09:12)**
- **The Caelustra:The Belief System Quietly Replacing Christianity in American Churches - YouTube (00:13:33)**
- **Wikipedia: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**

Principal Elements

1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
  - “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”

Observations

- MTD is an example of the fundamental human problem in the Bible:
  - People try figuring out good and bad on their own without God.
    - Adam and Eve took the fruit of the tree of knowing good and bad.
    - Solomon asked God for the knowledge of good and bad.
  - People construct their own path to God:
    - Other individual religions
    - Blending religions (e.g. “My Sweet Lord” by George Harrison).

Biblical World View:

The Bible reflects a world view of its own:

- Human nature keeps repeating the same mistakes.
- God’s plan to fix us culminates in Jesus and the Church.
- Neither conservatives nor progressives have a better solution to the human problem!

Stages In Old Testament History

- Creation - Adam and Eve - Genesis 1-2
- The Fall - Choosing to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Bad. - Genesis 3
- Cain & Abel - Genesis 4
- Seth, Enosh - People begin to call on the name of the Lord. - Genesis 4
- Enoch - The man who walked with God. - Genesis 5
- Sons of God & daughters of men. God decides to wipe out his creation. - Genesis 6
- Noah finds favor. The Flood. God’s Covenant. The Nations. - Genesis 6-10

- Tower of Babel - Genesis 11
- Abraham - Genesis 12
- Israel - Genesis 32
- The Exodus - Exodus, etc.
- The Sinai Covenant (Ten Commandments, etc.) - Exodus, etc.
- This history will allow those who enter the Kingdom age to obey God non-coercively!

Will God's Kingdom ultimately be coercive or non-coercive?

- Full access to and memory of Bible history will enable the heirs of salvation to avoid humanity's mistakes.
- We will ultimately fully embrace God's solutions - centered on Jesus!

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Observations

- Jesus came to "his own" (i.e. Israel), but most of them did not receive him. Those who did receive him were enabled to become God's children.
- You are not automatically God's child just because you are human!
- Those who "receive Jesus":
  - They don't try to fit Jesus into their preconceived categories.
  - They embrace Jesus' words, definitions, and perspectives.

YHWH / LORD

Video:

- Bible Project: YHWH / Lord (00:03:40)

Exodus 3:1-15

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey —the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain. "

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers —the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob —has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

Observations

- "YHWH", the divine name, is derived from "He is who he is" or "he will be who he will be".

John 8:48-59

The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

"I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."

At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the

prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

"You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Narrative

- Jesus makes more bold statements about himself to his audience:
  - The Jews accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan and demonized.
  - Jesus rejects the accusation and counters that:
    - He honors the Father.
    - The Father seeks his glory.
    - Whoever obeys his word will never see death.
  - The Jews reject this statement in light of the fact that Abraham and the prophets died.
  - Jesus claims that their father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing his day.
  - The Jews reject the idea that Jesus was old enough to have encountered Abraham.
  - Jesus claims that he existed before Abraham by invoking the divine name: I Am,

Observations

- The Samaritans were the result of mixing between Israelites from the northern tribes and the foreigners that the Assyrians imported when they conquered Israel.
- Although the NIV uses the term "demon possessed", the original Greek would be better translated as "demonized".
- The Jews interpret Jesus' invocation of the divine name as blasphemy. This is why they attempt to stone him.

Lessons

- Jesus continues to build on his unique role as the light of the world and the Son of his Father. He always does what pleases the Father and has lived free from sin.
- Consider Jesus' bold statements:
  - "Whoever obeys my word will never see death."
  - "Before Abraham was born, I am!"
- What did these statements mean to the people who first heard it?

- What do these statements mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Life Group

Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)

- Icebreaker

- **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

Word - Discussion Questions

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**
- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

Witness

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.

- What level are you at with these?
  - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a ”leader”?
  - What’s your plan for developing these skills?

- **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**

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Sunday October 25, 2026

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  - the apostles' teaching
  - fellowship
  - the breaking of bread
  - prayer
- Cultural Rivers

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

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We want to establish a disciple-making community!

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 1 of 3

Principal Elements (sounds good, but this is NOT Christianity):

1. A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
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Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 2 of 3

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John 1:1-18 (NIV) 1 of 2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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John 1:1-18 (NIV) 2 of 2

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Bible Project: YHWH / LORD



Exodus 3:1-15 (NIV) 1 of 3

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Exodus 3:1-15 (NIV) 2 of 3

The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey —the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

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The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

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John 8:48-59 (NIV) 2 of 2

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

"You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

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Jesus makes more bold statements about himself to his audience:

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- Jesus rejects the accusation and counters that:
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Lessons

- Jesus continues to build on his unique role as the light of the world and the Son of his Father. He always does what pleases the Father and has lived free from sin.
- Consider Jesus' bold statements:
  - "Whoever obeys my word will never see death."
  - "Before Abraham was born, I am!"
- What did these statements mean to the people who first heard it?
- What do these statements mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Life Groups

Word - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
  - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a ”leader”?
  - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.

Announcements

Visitor Page

- Men’s Bible Study Wed (10/28) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) November 1, 2026
- Sunday Connection November 1, 2026 12n - 2pm
- Men’s Bible Study Wed (11/4) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service November 8, 2026
- Men’s Bible Study Wed (11/11) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom

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