

Lesson Notes:

Answers to Misconceptions about Jesus

The Holy Gospel is under increasing attack in an effort to discredit the gospels and to degrade our Savior to less than deity. This is an attempt to cast doubt upon Christ's divinity and to erode the faith that followers have in the salvation God offers us through Jesus his son. Following are some of the absurdities that are being circulated regarding Jesus death, burial, resurrection and his affirmation that he is the living God.

False Doctrines

1) Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered a daughter.

Some authors claim that Jesus and Mary were the couple that was married at Cana since only the family members at a wedding may instruct the servants. In addition, Jesus was referred to as Rabbi (teacher) by his disciples. A commonly presented argument is that all Rabbis must be married therefore Jesus was married.

John 2:2 clearly tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding. I repeat **John 2:2** tells us that Jesus was "invited" to the wedding. It did not refer to Jesus as the groom, it says that he and his disciples were invited. In addition, Mary reacted to fact that there was no wine remaining for the wedding celebration. Whether or not it was a Hebrew custom for family members only to instruct servants at a wedding did not matter to Mary. Mary knew that the situation called for a miracle and she reacted accordingly. The master of the feast was obviously overjoyed with the results (**John 2:9**) regardless of Mary's relationship to the bride or groom. Also, the fact is that there is no reference to a wife in the New Testament. The New Testament refers to his Father, Mother and Siblings but no reference is ever made to a wife.

Secondly, two prominent Jewish writers from the first-century A.D., Philo and Josephus, mention that some Jewish men in the time of Jesus were single by choice. Philo, a contemporary of Jesus, was a Jewish philosopher who lived in Alexandria, Egypt, and who wrote many volumes in the first half of the century. Josephus was a Jewish historian who wrote near the end of the century. Both Philo and Josephus mention that the Essenes, a group of apocalyptic Jews who were Rabbis and teachers eagerly awaited God's intervention in history, and did not marry.

Finally Jesus explains a reason for being single in **Matthew 19:11-12**. It is for the Kingdom of God.

2) Jesus survived his crucifixion. Therefore he never died and was resurrected.

In **John 19:34** John tells us that a Roman spear was thrust into Christ's side resulting in the expulsion of blood and water. The water was a result of the spear piercing the pericardial cavity. Any doctor can tell you that no one could ever survive a rupture of the pericardial cavity. **Matthew 27:50** tells us that Jesus yielded up the ghost. In **Matthew 27:51** we see that miracles occurred immediately following Christ's death on the cross. Jesus appeared to his disciples in **Luke 24:36-43**. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 15:6** that Jesus appeared to 500 during his ascension to heaven and at the time of Paul's writing many of the witnesses were still alive. There are 11 different instances in the New Testament referring to Christ's appearance after his death and resurrection.

3) Jesus never claimed to be the son of God.

People who claim this have a limited knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Luke tells us in **Luke 22:70** that when the high priest Caiaphas asked Jesus during his trial if he claims to be the son of God his answer was, "You rightly say that I am".

Jesus repetitively told his followers that he was the son of God and the messiah. In **John 10:30** Jesus says, "I and the Father are one". In **John 8:58** Jesus said "I say unto you before Abraham was I am". In essence he was telling the crowd gathered that he existed in Heaven before Abraham was born. Jesus quickly slipped into the crowd to avoid being stoned to death by the Pharisees and the scribes for blasphemy (declaring himself to be God). In **John 14:6** Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to my father except through me." I don't know how he could be anymore straight forward regarding the truth of his existence!

In **Matthew 24:11** Jesus tells us that in the last days many false prophets will rise up and will deceive many. Let us not be deceived by false teachers and prophets but put on the full armor (**Ephesians 6:13**) of God as we serve him in these last days.