

**Date:** 22 December 2019  
**Services:** Sunshine Beach and Tewantin  
**Series:** Christ is coming  
**Title:** Jesus is God  
**Passage:** Isaiah 53:1-6, Luke 11:14-23  
**Outline:** **1. His unique coming**  
**2. His unique claims**  
**3. His unique character**

The key teaching of Christianity, separating it from every other religion in the world, is that Jesus is God. He is God with us (Emmanuel). He is *"all the fullness of God dwelling bodily"* (Col 1:19). Everything hangs on that. If it is not true, we are fools to worship him. We may as well worship other men, or crocodiles, or planets, because they are not divine either. So how can I know that Jesus is God? There are various ways of answering, but I will point to three key facts. We know Jesus is God by:

1. His unique coming
2. His unique claims
3. His unique character

### 1. His unique coming

Jesus is not a figment of the imagination like Zeus, Thor, Baal, or a million other invented 'gods'. Jesus actually **came** into this world! He is a real historical figure. He was seen, and heard, and touched. He left footprints. The coming of Jesus was not just an event in human history: it was **the** event! It stopped every clock! All history is dated by his birth. Things are either BC or AD, before Christ or after him. He is the reference point for everything.

There have been other great people, but they are nothing compared to Jesus. No matter how great they were (Einstein or Archimedes) human history is not divided around their name. The sceptics replace BC and AD with CE (Common Era) but it is futile ... you can't rewrite history!

A person would have to be either very perverse or ignorant to deny the greatness of Jesus Christ. He not only stands in human history, he stands central! Why? What is so unique about this man? It is his divinity! He is God incarnate. That's the only answer that adds up. That's exactly what Jesus claimed about himself. So ...

### 2. His unique claims

Jesus didn't go around with sealed lips. He made claims about himself that cannot be ignored. These claims are so egocentric that they demand a verdict from us. We must give either our wholehearted allegiance to Jesus or our wholehearted opposition. Do the facts support his claims? If they do, we must believe him. If they don't, we must reject him. But you can't sit on the fence. There is no place for neutrality. So, what sorts of claims did Jesus make?

Far beyond claiming to know the truth ... he claimed to **be** the truth: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6). That is a massive claim. He claims to be life itself. If someone believes in him, they have life, otherwise they don't. He claims that he exclusively is the way to God. Any other religious focus is false and useless because *"No one comes to the Father except through me."* That's a big call! Keep it in mind for a moment.

He also claimed to do what God alone can do, raising the dead and giving eternal life: *"Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it"* (John 5:21).

He claimed to be the Judge of the whole world: *"The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son"* (John 5:22).

And (provocatively) ... he demanded to be treated as God. *"Everyone must honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him"* (John 5:23).

Eyewitnesses put these and other claims in writing. They heard Jesus claim that *he came down from heaven!* That's a big one. He also said that *a wise man was anyone who believed his words*, and a fool was any man who didn't believe. These are massive claims.

Jesus not only claimed to be God, he acted as God! He forgave sins: *"Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven'"* (Matt 9:2). He allowed men to call him God and to worship him. In fact, Jesus said that is what men need to do. When Thomas called him 'My Lord and my God' Jesus said *"because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"* (John 20:28-29). He claimed to exist even before Abraham (2000 years earlier): *"Before Abraham was, I am!"* (John 8:58).

We must face up to these astonishing claims. They demand faith in Jesus Christ as God. We cannot dismiss it by saying *'I accept Jesus was a good man who did and taught a lot of good, but I can't accept that he is God.'* Why is that absurd?

Because good men don't go around telling monstrous lies! Good men don't claim to be God, nor do they act as God or accept worship! But Jesus did all of that. His claims put us on the spot, big time. *"If you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins"* (John 8:24). The only three options ... *is he mad, bad, or God?*

The way to check a man's claims is by his character. Does his behaviour line up with his words? With Jesus, yes it does. Think about ...

### 3. His unique character

**Was he mad?** Jesus certainly suffered that accusation: *"Many of them said, he is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"* (John 10:20). He was 'baited' with cunning questions designed to trap him no matter which way he answered. But his replies were always brilliant, leaving them speechless. They were completely outclassed by his profound wisdom and insight. After one such episode, Matthew records: *"No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions"* (Matt 22:46, & Luke 20:40). Mad? Never!

**Was he bad?** Jesus himself raised that option. After claiming to be perfectly sinless he gave his **enemies** the opportunity to disprove it. He challenged them to name even one bad thing about him ... *"I always do what pleases him (God the Father) ... can any of you prove me guilty of sin?"* (John 8:29 & 46) No one could. You try doing that sometime (even in front of your friends)! Tell them you are perfect and ask them to find a single thing wrong with you. We all know you'll be howled down.

His biggest test of character was at his trial. He was sentenced to death though all parties agreed he was innocent ... his friends, his enemies, even Pilate the trial judge. Consider ...

His friends. They put their testimony in writing (Peter, James, John and others). They call him as *"the spotless lamb of God without blemish"* (1 Pet 1:19). They say he is *"holy, harmless, and undefiled, separate from sinners"* (Heb 7:26). He was *"tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin"* (Heb 4:15). What about his enemies?

The Judge. Pontius Pilate had a vested political interest in getting rid of Jesus, yet he said (three times) in public *"I find no fault in this man"* (Luke 23:4). When the crowd kept baying for Christ's blood, Pilate demanded *"Why, what evil has he done? But they kept shouting all the more, saying, Let him be crucified!"* (Matt 27:23). He tried hard to find fault -- but he found no fault in Jesus because there was no fault to find. Pilate knew the bloodthirsty mob would kill the innocent man. *"He knew it was because of envy they had delivered him up"* (Matt 27:18). But he was too cowardly to insist on justice in his court ... so he washed his hands of it.

His enemies. Even Herod, that cruel enemy of Jesus, was forced by the facts to agree that Jesus was innocent. So, Pilate told the chief priests, the rulers and the people ... *"I have examined Jesus in your presence and found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death"* (Luke 23:12-16). The treacherous Judas agreed.

*"When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 'I have sinned ... for I have betrayed innocent blood'"* (Matt 27:3-4).

The Roman Centurion supervising the crucifixion saw the integrity of Jesus in such a bloodthirsty scene, he acknowledged the terrible injustice. *"Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, certainly this man was innocent ... Truly this man was the Son of God!"* (Luke 23:47 & Mark 15:39). He is not mad, or bad! He is God!

*How do I know that Jesus is God?* I hope you can see the answer. The unique nature of his coming, his claims, and his character lead to only one logical conclusion ... Jesus is God. These three facts would be good topics to share with others as we spread the gospel with anyone who will listen. All hail the power of Jesus' name!