

Introduction:

1. “Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?” Those were the words of Jesus to His apostles in Matthew 16:13. Yet, Jesus also wanted to hear how His apostles would answer this question. Peter responded by saying that He was “the Christ, the Son of the living God”, Matthew 16:15-16.
2. If you ask others about who Jesus is, they too will usually say that He is the Christ, or the Son of God. Yet, Jesus in Matthew 16:13 referred to Himself as the Son of Man. Very few people refer to Jesus as the Son of Man. But Jesus used this term more than 60 times in the gospels to describe Himself. Why did Jesus use this title to refer to Himself? What does it mean? And what is the significance behind it? Do you know the answers to these questions? Since Jesus is our Savior it’s appropriate that we know the answers.
3. At the beginning of this month we began a series looking at the different names of Jesus. This morning, we will focus our attention on Jesus, The Son of Man. This series is important for our faith and growth in the knowledge of truth, and so we can lead others to Christ.

The Lesson:

I. Its Meaning

- A. To understand this title, first we must know the meaning of the phrase “Son of”.
 1. The phrase “Son of” is a Hebrew idiom that was used to express the nature of someone. This phrase is found numerous times throughout the Bible. For example...
 - a. The term “Son of wickedness” is used in Psalms 89:22 by the psalmist to describe a wicked person.
 - b. The term “Sons of this world” is used in Luke 20:34 by Jesus to refer to people who were devoted to this world.
 2. Therefore, the phrase “Son of” is used to express the nature of someone.
- B. The title “Son of Man” was thus used by Jesus to express His nature.
 1. Now it’s important to note that “Son of Man” when seen in the Bible does not always refer to Jesus, Ezekiel 2:1. Yet when Jesus used this title, He exclusively used it to refer to Himself, Matthew 16:13, 12:8. As Jesus used this title He revealed His nature. The most common answer is that Jesus used this title to show that He was a man. Certainly, like men, Jesus had a genealogy, Matthew 1:1, matured physically, Luke 2:52, became thirsty, John 4:7, would get tired, Matthew 8:24, and died, Matthew 27:50. He was flesh and blood. This is how most explain the meaning of this title. But there is another meaning behind it that is often overlooked. Jesus used it to show His deity.
 2. Son of Man is an Old Testament Messianic title, Daniel 7:12-15. Daniel spoke of an exalted person. This person could only be Jesus. Jesus would ascend into heaven, Acts 1:9 He would be given authority, dominion, and a kingdom.

3. John spoke of Jesus as the Son of Man who had descended from heaven and ascended into heaven, John 3:13. Stephen called Jesus the Son of Man as He looked into heaven before he died, Acts 7:55-56. Therefore, Son of Man was used to show the humanity and deity of Jesus. Yet Jesus used this title more often to show His deity. People are quick to use the title Son of God to show the deity of Jesus. To do so is accurate, Matthew 16:13,15-16. But Jesus used Son of Man more than Son of God to show His deity, Mark 2:10, 7, Matthew 17:9; John 6:62. The meaning behind this title was to show the deity of Jesus and His humanity.

II. Its Significance

- A. This title shows us that Jesus was a man and therefore can relate with us.
 1. He is one that can truly sympathize with our problems, Hebrews 4:15-16. The title Son of Man should remind us that we have a Savior who cares about us so much, that He chose to experience living on earth. He endured what we endure. Actually, He endured more than anyone ever has. Therefore, He is able to say “I know how you feel” no matter what we go through. Who else can say that, Proverbs 14:10? Jesus can sympathize with those who lost loved ones from the shooting in Connecticut last week. And He can relate to our problems.
 2. Because of this we should never say, “No one knows how I feel.” Because of this we must not quit on Jesus. The title Son of Man reminds us that Jesus is able to relate with us.
- B. This title shows us that Jesus is our source for eternal life.
 1. Only Jesus, the Son of Man provides the way to the Father, 1Timothy 2:4-5.
 2. Only Jesus, the Son of Man can provide forgiveness of sins, Mark 2:10; Ephesians 1:7.
 3. Jesus, the Son of Man is the one we must listen to as we live our lives because He has the right to tell us what to do, John 5:27, 12:48.

Conclusion:

1. We still have not addressed why this title was used. We know the meaning behind it and its significance, but why the phrase Son of Man? It could have been that Jesus used this seemingly ordinary title so that those who were unconcerned about God’s plan and the teaching of Jesus, would have simply heard an ordinary term. But for those who were seeking truth, who had ears to hear, when they heard it the light bulb would go off and they would hear Daniel 7. What about us?
2. When we see this title will we simply see Jesus as a good but ordinary man, just like everyone else? People often say that Jesus was a good man, but that’s it. We know the truth. Jesus could not have been a good man, and yet constantly lie about His nature when He said He was God. A good person would not lie like that. Jesus was either, a liar, lunatic, or Lord as He claimed to be. Who do we say that Jesus, the Son of Man is? He wants to be our Savior. One day He will return for those who are faithful to Him, Luke 18:8. Will that be you, Mark 8:38?