

3 July 2022

Introducing Jesus - Matthew 13:53-58

The talk was based around a 2020 You Gov poll, looking at responses to Jesus. There were two questions:

Question 1: "Do you think Jesus Christ was: (a) the Son of God, (b) a historical figure, but not the Son of God, (c) a fictitious character?" How do you feel about Jesus - honestly?

Question 2: "Do you believe that the gospels are completely historical? Specifically, do you believe the Christmas story is historically accurate or not?" Does it matter?

It is worth scanning through chapters 4-13 of Matthew's gospel to catch a flavour of everything that Jesus was doing.

Question 3: It is easy to consider what Jesus said. But how do you respond to his miracles? How do you feel about miracles today?

The final part of the talk looked at Jesus' mission.

Question 4: Sum up Jesus' mission. Then compare with Luke 4:43-44 and Matthew 20:28

Question 5: How does your answer and the verses above fit in with what Jesus said before he sent out his disciples – Matthew 10:34-36. Think about this in terms of light vs dark as well as faith causing conflict within families. Does the strength of Jesus' words surprise you?

The talk ended with words from the Nicene Creed – a statement of faith unchanged for 1700 years. The section about Jesus is copied below.

Question 6: What does this tell you about Jesus? Do you believe every statement here?

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.