

Cliff Notes 6 – Who is Jesus and Why Should You Care?

Philippians 2:1-11

- I. Introduction
 - A. We come to the end of our current series of sermons today.
 - 1) We've called it "Cliff Notes" and we've covered some foundational topics.
 - 2) The Church, the Bible, Love, the nature of evil, Christian service.
 - B. We finish with the most important topic of the six.
 - 1) Who is Jesus and why should you care?
 - 2) Just a couple of weeks from Easter, it's not only an appropriate topic; it's a timely one as well.
 - C. We begin in Philippians 2:1-11.
 - 1) Paul quotes this early Christian hymn that explores the nature of Jesus.
 - 2) He lifts up four points about Jesus' nature that explain who He is.
 - 3) We'll explore those together in a moment.
 - a) But before we do let's get ready to go one step deeper.
 - b) These four things are not only Paul's ideas about Jesus.
 - i. Jesus was pretty clear about these things as well.
 - ii. And we'll look at the Gospel of John to see what Jesus had to say about himself and his mission.
 - D. Read Philippians 2:1-11
- II. First, Paul says that Jesus is God.
 - A. He's not like God, He doesn't just emanate from God, He doesn't just point us to God.
 - 1) Look at verses 5 and 6 – ⁵ "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God,"
 - 2) Jesus IS God. His very nature IS God's nature.
 - B. Jesus himself is very clear about this reality in the Gospel of John.
 - 1) John 10:30 says, "I and the Father are One."
 - 2) They're the same. They're One.
 - 3) In John 14:9 Jesus goes one step further and says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
 - C. No wonder the Jews of Jesus' day were incensed at his teaching – He was claiming equality with God!
 - 1) Jesus was being very clear.
 - 2) Jesus is God.
- III. Next, Paul says Jesus became a man.
 - A. That's an astounding claim, especially immediately working so hard to show that Jesus is God.
 - 1) But Paul says that Jesus debased himself to become a man.
 - 2) He didn't give up His divine nature; the Bible says He took on a human nature.
 - a) He became the first (and only) living being with two natures – human and divine.
 - b) Because he was divine, He was sinless.
 - c) Because he was human, He could know our grief and bear our sorrows.
 - 3) In Philippians Paul says, ⁷ "but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."
 - a) This God has become man.

- A. Let me speak to two groups of us in turn. First, to those of you who are followers of Jesus.
- 1) If all that we said up until now if true, it's past time for us to live holy and godly lives and start taking this "follower of Christ" thing seriously.
 - 2) If all that we said is true, then our spiritual well-being is the single most important priority of our lives and its time to start living that way.
 - a) Kids' spiritual education.
 - b) Your spiritual education.
 - c) Stop making excuses. It's a good thing Jesus didn't make excuses.
- B. Second, to those of you who are not yet followers of Jesus.
- 1) First, let me say that we're sorry.
 - a) We're sorry that we haven't lived up to what Jesus teaches.
 - b) We're sorry that we say one thing and do another.
 - c) We're sorry that we blow it over and over again.
 - 2) But don't reject Jesus because of us.
 - a) Your destiny hangs in the balance.
 - b) It really is all about Jesus.
 - 3) There really is no other solution.
 - a) Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
 - b) There's only one gate into this yard. And his name is Jesus.
 - 4) We've heard what Scripture and Paul have to say about Jesus. We've heard what Jesus said about himself.
 - a) If Jesus is a liar – walk away from Him.
 - b) If Jesus is speaking the truth – don't walk away without Him.

[let us pray]

*All Scripture quotations are taken from Today's New International Version.