

Who Jesus Is and Is Not Who John Is and Is Not

John 1:19-34

January 18, 2026

I. Introduction

- A. Warning! Failure to identify Jesus properly will cost you more than you can afford. Failure to identify John the Baptizer correctly will confuse you greatly.
- B. Promise: To identify Jesus properly will lead to an abundant life and eternal life (John 10:10). John the Baptizer teaches us humility and illustrates our humanity in his doubts.
 - 1. Matthew 11:1-14

II. Who John the Baptizer Was and Was Not

- A. Who he was not
 - 1. John (the apostle) said John the Baptizer was not *“the light”* (i.e. Jesus) – v. 8
 - 2. John said he was not *“the Christ”* (verse 20), *“Elijah”* (Malachi 4:5) or the prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15); Acts 3:19-22) – v. 21
- B. Who he was
 - 1. *“A voice of one crying in the wilderness . . .”* (Isaiah 40:3) – v. 23
 - 2. A doubter like you and I (Matthew 1:1-15), yet *“Elijah”* as promised in Malachi 4:5, 6

III. Who Jesus Was and What He Was Not

- A. False (rude) statements about Jesus
 - 1. He is demon possessed
 - a. Mark 3:22
 - 2. He has a devil and is insane
 - a. John 10:20
 - 3. He is an illegitimate child
 - a. John 8:41
 - 4. He is merely a carpenter’s son
 - a. Mark 6:1-6
 - 5. He is a prophet
 - a. John 4:19

- 6. He is the first born of God

- a. Colossians 1:15
 - i. This is a proper title, but some take it to mean that Jesus had a beginning, thus He is better than all other men but less than God

- 7. C. S. Lewis said He is either lunatic, liar or Lord

- B. How the Bible identifies Jesus

Our challenge: John says, *“no one has seen God at any time”* (John 1:18) yet Jesus said, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father”* (John 14:9).

- 1. Equal to but separate from the Father
 - a. John 1:1, 2
- 2. Taking on human flesh
 - a. John 1:14; Galatians 4:4
- 3. The Christ. The promised Messiah.
 - a. John 1:20
- 4. *“the Lamb of God”* – v. 29
- 5. *“the Son of God”* – v. 34

IV. Conclusion

- A. Salvation is a gift to be received not an award to earn
 - 1. John 4:10
- B. Although salvation is a gift to be received, your faith in Christ may cost you everything as it did Him to give it to you.