

GROWING DEEP IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Returning to Our Roots

STUDY EIGHT

When the God-Man Walked Among Us

Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 1:40–42; Luke 8:22–25; John 11:30–44

It's important that you know who Jesus is. Otherwise, you won't know how to interpret what He has done, and you will never be able to give yourself to Him.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WHO is Jesus?

The angels announced Him as “the Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). The magi revered Him as “the king of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2). John the Baptizer declared Him, “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29). God the Father pronounced Him, “my dearly loved Son” (Matthew 3:17). When Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do you say I am?” Peter knew the answer: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:15–16).

Savior. Lord. Messiah. King. Lamb. Son of God. The facets of Jesus' identity sparkled with the clarity of a flawless diamond; however, not everyone who encountered Jesus had the spiritual eyesight to see His true worth.

His hometown neighbors scoffed, “He's just the carpenter's son” (Matthew 13:55). “He's out of his mind,” some family members accused (Mark 3:21). “He's possessed by Satan,” the religious leaders smirked.



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When the God-Man Walked Among Us

Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 1:40–42; Luke 8:22–25; John 11:30–44

Everywhere Jesus went, the question on everyone’s mind was, “Who is this?” (Matthew 21:10). Public opinion shifted with the wind. Some tried to push Him to lead their revolution and “force him to be their king” (John 6:15). Others rumored that He was a prophet back from the dead—maybe Elijah, Jeremiah, or John the Baptist (Matthew 16:14).

Jesus, however, left no doubt about who He was. This *Searching the Scriptures* study follows Jesus as He clearly demonstrated His true identity as God in the flesh, the God-man who walked among us.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Open your study with prayer.

Father, in a world of vacillating viewpoints, take me by the hand and lead me to the truth. Help me hear Jesus’ words accurately, and open my eyes to the beauty of His nature so that I can more fully give myself to Him. In His name, amen.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In the previous study, we witnessed the miracle of the incarnation, when God’s Son, who has always existed, took on human flesh and “made his home among us” (John 1:14). Jesus ate, slept, felt pain—all things humans do. And yet, He *also* did things that only God could do. As God in the flesh, Jesus often expressed His humanity and divinity together. Let’s flip through the gospels to four examples in which we find Jesus’ deity and humanity on full display.



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 **Observation: Four Examples of Jesus’ Humanity and Deity**

In the following charts, closely read the passage in the heading and write down your observations of Jesus’ humanity and deity. This side-by-side comparison illustrates the ways in which Jesus’ human nature “rubbed shoulders” with His divine nature, making Him exactly who His Father and the angels said He was.

On His Knees and on the Water <i>Matthew 14:22–33</i>	
Evidence of Jesus’ Human Nature	Evidence of Jesus’ Divine Nature

Feeling Compassion for a Man with Leprosy <i>Mark 1:40–42</i>	
Evidence of Jesus’ Human Nature	Evidence of Jesus’ Divine Nature

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Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 1:40–42; Luke 8:22–25; John 11:30–44

Asleep in a Storm <i>Luke 8:22–25</i>	
Evidence of Jesus' Human Nature	Evidence of Jesus' Divine Nature

Bringing Lazarus Back to Life <i>John 11:30–44</i>	
Evidence of Jesus' Human Nature	Evidence of Jesus' Divine Nature

Sum up your observations in the space below. What stands out about Jesus' human nature? His divine nature?

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Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 1:40–42; Luke 8:22–25; John 11:30–44

Only God walks on water. Only God cleanses leprosy. Only God calms the sea. Only God raises the dead, and at the resurrection, He will! —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Two Natures, One Person

In *interpretation*, we seek to understand the meaning of the passages we observed. How do Jesus' two natures exist together? Wouldn't being God make Jesus less human? On the other hand, wouldn't being human make Jesus less God?

Theologians who have wrestled with these questions have concluded that when Jesus, who always existed as God, took on human flesh, His two natures became inseparable. And yet, Jesus' divine nature and human nature are distinct. They exist together unmixed and undiluted—two natures united forever in His one Person.

Read more about Christ's nature in your Bible dictionary or read the articles on the [hypostatic union](#) and the [incarnation](#) at the Christian website, [gotquestions.org](#). Summarize what you learn about Jesus' identity as the God-man in the space below.



Correlation: The Reason Jesus Came

In *correlation*, we look at other passages to elaborate upon the truths we studied. We know who Jesus is: God in the flesh. But why did He come?



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Read *Hebrews 9:13–15* and *1 Peter 1:18–20* and write down the reasons the Son had to take on flesh.

Jesus did what only God could do. He walked on water, healed diseases, calmed the stormy sea, and even raised the dead. But He also did what only God *in human flesh* could do—obey the commands of Scripture without fault, bear sin’s judgment as the perfect sacrifice, and rise from the dead to give hope beyond the grave. The God-man who walked among us is the only One who can save the world.

Jesus Christ, who is the God-man, was nailed to the cross and bodily raised from the dead so that you can have a relationship with Him by faith. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Praise the One Who Bore Our Sin

How does the truth that Jesus is God inspire you to trust Him today?



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How does the truth that Jesus is God *in the flesh* help you draw close to Him in His humanity?

Close this study by following the example of the disciples when Jesus saved Peter from the waves.

When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed. (Matthew 14:32–33)

Make the blank below a sacred space for expressing your worship to the One who commands the sea . . . yet weeps beside you when storms wash over your heart.



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Jesus' titles convey His mission well—*Savior, Lord, Messiah, King, Lamb, Son of God*. Let Paul's praise of Jesus in Philippians 2:6–11 fill the cathedral of your soul as you worship the Lord.

*Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.
Instead, he gave up his divine privileges,
he took the humble position of a slave
and he was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,
he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.
Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, I am in awe of Your Son, who rules as Creator and King yet who took on human flesh to bear my sin. Knowing who He is, I understand better what He did and why. And so, I give myself to Him as my Savior and Lord, the King who exchanged His glory for my shame and now sits once again in glory, forever. For Him, I live. In His name, amen.

