



Session 10: Jesus Thought He Was God

November 25, 2019 • Rev. Doug Gray
First Church of Squantum

Bible Study Based on
Leonard Sweet's *The Bad Habits of Jesus: Showing Us
How to Live Right in a World Gone Wrong*

I. Introductions and Prayer

- A. Leonard Sweet writes: “Jesus’ favorite way of describing himself was...most often translated ‘Son of Man’ but best translated ‘the Human One.’ Jesus is not some ideal human being, but the first true human being, the human being we were all created to be...But Jesus also had this bad habit of describing himself as God and claiming a special relationship with God.” (p. 179)
- B. Asking God to come among us

II. Jesus, “the Human One”

- A. OT phrase for human being — Numbers 23:19, Psalm 8:4, Psalm 80:17
- B. What God calls Ezekiel — Ezekiel 2:1, 3, 6, 8 (also chapters 8, 11–14, and more)
- C. Apocalyptic holy figure in Daniel 7:13.
- D. Most common way Jesus refers to Himself (see Matthew 12:8, 16:13 & 27)

III. Jesus Thought He Was God

- A. Doing things only God can do — forgive sins (Mark 2:5–11), re-evaluate the Law (Matthew 5:17–48, Luke 6:5, 9), controlling weather (Mark 4:39), & more
- B. “I and the Father are one.” John 10:30
- C. “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” John 8:58
- D. I AM sayings in John (“I AM...” the bread from heaven, the light of the world, the door, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life)

IV. Jesus’ Idea of Being God and the Human One

- A. Subordinate to the Father (the prayer in the Garden; see Philippians 2:5–11)
- B. Life of seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10)
- C. Life of sacrifice and suffering for others (Matthew 20:17–19)

V. Is Jesus Crazy?

- A. C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
- B. “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

VI. Conclusions — Jesus encourages us to come to God as children

“The church is the people who live Jesus. All of Jesus, even the bad-habits of Jesus. Not the people who remember Jesus, but the people who experience embody, and evidence Jesus’ resurrection life.” (p. 188)

“To you and me, Jesus is the Human One as well as the Son of God, the same as you and me but with the kinds of outstanding bad habits that made his heavenly Father proud—bad habits that we would do well to learn...May we make all his habits our own.” (p. 194)