

# **Jesus the Christ-Priest, King & Lord!**

**Pastor Guy Gray**

**Acts 5:41-42**

## **Radical Claims and Real Controversy**

The name of Jesus causes controversy. This should come as no surprise to us. The life of Jesus was filled with controversy and conflict. The fact that Jesus ended up on a cross crucified shows the extreme nature of the controversy that was generated through His own life and ministry. And what is most interesting is that the controversy was not ultimately centered on the things He did. The greatest extent of the controversy focused on the unique identity which He claimed for Himself. When Jesus was on trial before the rulers of Israel, the most inflammatory question they put to Him was about His identity. They asked Him point blank if He was the Christ (Mark 14:60-65). When Jesus answered that He was indeed the Christ, the rulers became determined to put Him to death. But why? Why should this claim be so controversial? What does it mean to believe and to proclaim that Jesus is the Christ? As we learn the answer, we begin to see why Jesus is as controversial today as ever.

## **Word Study: Christ, Messiah, “Anointed One”**

Because we are so familiar with the name Jesus Christ, it is easy for us to miss the fact that this name is really much more than just a “name.” It is actually a name, Jesus, plus a very special word that carries with it a radical claim. The word “Christ” is actually the Greek form of a Hebrew word “Messiah”, which comes from the Hebrew “mashach”, to anoint—and literally means “the Anointed One.” To understand the significance of this word we need to go back to (you guessed it!) our study of the book of Exodus. The first real development of the idea of “anointing” in the Bible comes in the teaching about the tabernacle and the priesthood in Exodus 30:22-33. There we find detailed instructions for the making of special fragrant oil. This oil was used to anoint the priests for their service to the Lord. The use of this anointing oil was the sign that the priests had a unique status and function in God’s plan of salvation for His people—especially the High Priest. Later in the life of Israel, when God gave the nation a king, the anointing oil was used once again to designate God’s selection of a king for His people (1 Samuel 15:1 & 16:11-13). Because of this, the very idea of being “the anointed” of the Lord came to have a special meaning in the Old Testament. Psalm 2 shows the Lord’s anointed to be the triumphant king who will rule over all nations. Daniel 9:24-25 shows the Lord’s anointed to be both priest and king who would atone for sin and also rule in power. These are wonderful and radical

promises. Now we see why the title “Messiah”—Anointed One is so important. But remember, “Christ” is not really a name, it is a title. It is the Greek version of the word “Messiah”—Anointed One. This is the title that was claimed by Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what all the controversy is about!

### **Jesus Christ: Priest and King**

The idea that Jesus could be the Lord’s anointed—the ultimate Priest of God and the King of the entire world—this was too much for the Jewish leadership to handle. The claim was radical then, and it continues to be so today. Of course it is the death of Christ on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter Sunday that confirm the reality of Jesus as the Christ—Priest and King! This is extreme and exclusive. It calls for a reaction. It is too big and too controversial ignore. It puts Jesus in a category all by Himself and calls for our response of faith. No wonder some people respond with humble adoration, love and trust, while others strongly resist the claims of Jesus! Many would like to have “Jesus” – but not as the “Christ” of the bible. But there is no way to separate the two and stay true to the message of the Gospel.

### **This Jesus whom we trust, follow and proclaim**

*Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 5:42).* Now it is our turn to join those first believers who came to believe that Jesus was the Christ. As we approach Good Friday and Easter, may you be filled with adoration for Jesus your Christ. May you determine to trust Him with all your heart! May you determine to follow Him in the whole of your life! And, though it could stir up some controversy, may you be used to proclaim the wonderful news that Jesus IS the Christ!

## **Questions for Further Reflection & Discussion**

Spend some time this week to reflect on what you have heard and learned about Jesus our “Messiah”.

Read Luke 9:18-27. Why do you think Jesus asked His disciples these questions? Is there any significance to the order in which He asked them (starting with the “crowds” and then with the disciples themselves)?

Notice how Peter responds. What is significant about his answer? Because of Peter’s response, Christ warns them, instructs them about what is to come and calls them to make a commitment with their very lives? As the disciples begin to understand who Jesus actually is, it

changes everything. So what about You? Who do You say Jesus is? How has this changed your life, your relationships, the way you spend your time? Is there anything else that needs to change?

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **TODAY**

El Salvador Presentation &  
Pizza Night, 7pm, RWLG

### **THURSDAY 03/29**

Children's Ministry HOTEL  
Easter Basket Project  
6:30pm, RWLG

### **SATURDAY 03/31**

Junior High Bowling &  
Pizza, 1pm, Tigard Bowl

### **FRIDAY 04/06**

Good Friday Services  
6pm & 8pm, RWLG

### **SUNDAY 04/08**

Easter Services, 9am &  
11am, Lakeridge HS

### **FRIDAY 04/13**

Junior High Parent  
Meeting, 7pm, RWCC

### **SATURDAY 04/21**

High School Beach Day  
Details to come!

### **SUNDAY 04/29**

Baptism Service, 7pm,  
RWLG