

THE BIBLE PROJECT 2.03

NT 4—True Man—the Gospels



Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane --Fresco in Church of All Nations

The point of this lesson is

- 1) Jesus was fully human. He is not God acting human. He cried when he hurt, put his sandals on one at a time and really suffered and died.
- 2) Jesus was human in the way God originally created humans to be. His humanity is the humanity of Adam before Adam chose to deface that humanity by doing his own will. So Jesus is "The Second Adam."

A small teaching point about the literature of the NT:

What are "gospels"? How much space is given to the life of Jesus before the final week from Palm Sunday through Resurrection? Answer: About half. Gospels might be thought of as "Passion Account" with a prologue establishing the context. The following chart illustrates the number of chapters that precede event of the last week of Jesus' life.

Gospel Book	Chapters Before Palm Sunday	Chapters After Palm Sunday	Total	Percentage
Matthew	20	8	28	71%
Mark	10	6	16	63%
Luke	18	6	24	75%
John	11	10	21	52%
Total	59	30	89	66%

The Gospel of Luke Details that describe Jesus' humanity: Students' list



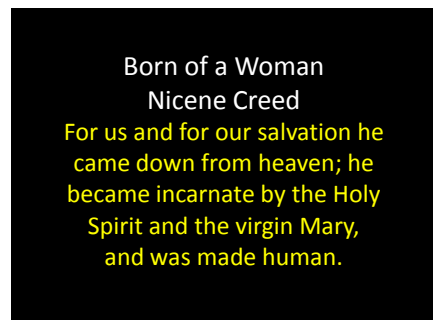
Son's left & right hands



father's left & mother's right hands
Note the lines.

Read also:

- Phil. 2. 5-11
- Heb. 1. 1-4; 2. 14-18
- Rom. 1.3
- Jn 8.40
- **In what ways were Jesus the man and Adam the man alike? In what ways different? *SEE chart.***



Could Jesus have yielded to temptation?

[This question's answer is a litmus test of how human you believe Jesus was.]

This next section reviews the content of students' preparation:

What do these scriptures show?

Mk 1.35, Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mk 6.46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

Mk 7.34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!")

Lk 3.21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

Luke 6.12-13 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

Luke 9.29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Luke 22.44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jn 8.26 I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

What is the main observation in these texts?

Mk 14.36, 39 "*Abba,*^[1] Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Jn 4.34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

Jn. 5.30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Jn. 6.38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

Jn. 8.29, The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."

Jn. 10. 36-38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

Jn. 17. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Jesus was without sin: Heb. 9.16, 7.26; 2 Cor 5.21; 1 Peter 1.19; John 8:46.

Born in the fullness of the Image of God. Col 1: 15 ¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Col 1. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him... Col 2.9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

Modern critical skepticism about the Gospels

Bultmann says the following are possibly the only authentic statements of Jesus:

Luke 11: 20: if by the finger of God I cast out demons...

Luke 22: 15ff.: With desire I have desired to eat this Passover...I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God is come. ["possibly it preserves an old saying in which Jesus affirmed ..."—Bultmann, *Jesus and the Word*

Bultmann: "Naturally we have no absolute assurance that the exact words of this oldest layer [of the synoptic Gospels] were really spoken by Jesus." Bultmann, *Jesus and the Word*, p. 13.

The following section uses the Titles given to Jesus and used by Jesus to describe his nature

MAIN IDEA: Jesus self-claims/titles

BIG IDEA 1: Messiah—

Jesus hesitates to use this term but it became the title Christ = Messiah.

Primary appearances:

1. **Jewish Trial Caiaphas**—Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed? Mk 14.61
Mark 14. 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."
[Mark's Gospel has a progression of recognition of Messiah: demons, disciples, detractors – *never gets to "scholars"* ☺.] eg. Mark 1.33b; 1.44; 7.36; 8.26; 8. 30 (Peter's confession);
Mark makes a big deal of the "Messianic Secret."
Reaction: "Blasphemy" is recognition that Jesus made the claim and did so with a use of God's name in Greek: *Ego Eimi* \ **I AM**.
2. **Roman Trial: Pilate**—Are you a king? So you say ..., Jesus responds. He avoids the charge of treason but does not deny Kingship—My Kingdom is not of this world. So a specific kind of Messiah.
3. **Peter's Confession: You are the Messiah...** Don't tell anyone: One interpretation is that when Jesus says, the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected... , the temptation is to adopt the common myth of the Messiah.
4. **Palm Sunday:** Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey explicitly recalls what Solomon did as his coronation. **1 Kings 1.32ff:** King David said, "Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king, ³³he said to them: "Take your lord's servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!'

So the question is why does Jesus hesitate to appropriate the Title of "Messiah?" multiple choice

- a) He was not sure he really was the Messiah?
- b) He was too humble?
- c) He did not want to confuse the people about the mission of the Messiah?

BIG IDEA 2: Son of David

1. Genealogy—both Joseph and Mary—See also Romans 1.3
2. Jesus considered Davidic heritage a qualification for his work: He quotes Ps. 110
The **LORD** says to my lord
While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared:

“‘The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet.’”³⁶
³⁷ David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

BIG IDEA 3: Son of Man— Jesus’ favorite self-designation. *Bar-nasha* [Heb]—Jesus the man. Uses by Ezekiel to refer to himself—used in Ezekiel more than any other place.

1. **Fundamentally a recognition of his own humanity**—though in a very self-conscious way. Could be used colloquially as in “liar” Son of lies; wealthy—Son of wealth, etc.
2. Recollection of Daniel 7.13: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**,¹³ coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴He was **given authority, glory and sovereign power**; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, **and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.**
3. Enoch 48. 2ff.
v2. And at that hour that **Son of Man** was named In the presence of the Lord of Spirits,
And his name before the Head of Days.

v3. Yea, before the sun and the signs were created,
Before the stars of the heaven were made,
His name was named before the Lord of Spirits.

v4. He shall be a staff to the righteous whereon to stay themselves and not fall,
And he shall be the light of the Gentiles,
And the hope of those who are troubled of heart.

Compare with Jesus’ use of SoM [Son of Man]

1. Eschatologically Lk 17.22 ff –Day of the Son of Man--MESSIANIC
Day of the Son of Man Mt 24.27, 37 ff.
Mark 14. 62 you will see the son of man coming on the clouds – direct evocation of Daniel.
Son of Man judges between sheep and goats.
2. SoM Jesus identifies with suffering servant—AND IN DOING SO LINKS SUFFERING WITH MESSIAH.
Mk 10. 45: Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give his life a ransom...
Mk 8. 31: SoM must suffer and be killed – Caesarea Philippi

Son of Man is used in NT only by Jesus of himself. Paul does not use the title. The Gospel writers apply it to no one else.

BIG IDEA 4: Son of God

Father--Abba

Mark 14. 36 “**Abba**, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

The Lord’s Prayer

Emphasizes the absolute *obedience* of a son. In the OT Israel collectively is “son of God.” And God always called Israel to obedience but Israel was a disobedient son.

Baptism: *Mark 1.11* “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” -- God

Peter’s Confession: *Matt 16.16*—“You are the Christ/Messiah, The Son of the living God.”

Garden of Gethsemane:

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”
Luke 22.42

Compare with the High Priest’s questioning challenge in Jesus’ trial: *Mark 14. 61ff*—

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

“Son of God expresses the historical and qualitative uniqueness of Jesus’ *relationship* to his Father.” (Cullmann, *Christology of the NT*, p. 275)

Parable of the Wicked Tenants: *Mt 21. 33-41*—last of all he sent his son...

Occurrences

Matthew 9 times

Matthew 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the **Son of God**, tell these stones to become bread.”

Matthew 4:6 “If you are the **Son of God**,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

Matthew 8:29 “What do you want with us, **Son of God**?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the **Son of God**.”

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the **Son of the living God**.”

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living **God**: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the **Son of God**.”

Matthew 27:40 and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the **Son of God**!”

Matthew 27:43 He trusts in **God**. Let **God** rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the **Son of God**.’”

Matthew 27:54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the **Son of God**!”

Mark 4 times

Mark 1:1 [*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*] The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the **Son of God**,

Mark 3:11 Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the **Son of God**.”

Mark 5:7 He shouted at the top **of** his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, **Son of** the Most High **God**? In **God**’s name don’t torture me!”

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front **of** Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the **Son of God**!”

Luke 11 times

Luke 1:32 He will be great and will be called the **Son of** the Most High. The Lord **God** will give him the throne **of** his father David,

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power **of** the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God**.”

Luke 3:2 during the high-priesthood **of** Annas and Caiaphas, the word **of God** came to John **son of** Zechariah in the wilderness.

Luke 3:38 the **son of** Enosh, the **son of** Seth, the **son of** Adam, the **son of God**.

Luke 4:3 The devil said to him, “If you are the **Son of God**, tell this stone to become bread.”

Luke 4:9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point **of** the temple. “If you are the **Son of God**,” he said, “throw yourself down from here.

Luke 4:41 Moreover, demons came out **of** many people, shouting, “You are the **Son of God**!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top **of** his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, **Son of** the Most High **God**? I beg you, don’t torture me!”

Luke 12:8 “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the **Son of Man** will also acknowledge before the angels **of God**.”

Luke 22:69 But from now on, the **Son of Man** will be seated at the right hand **of** the mighty **God**.”

Luke 22:70 They all asked, “Are you then the **Son of God**?” He replied, “You say that I am.”

John 8 times

John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the **Son of God**; you are the king **of** Israel.”

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name **of God**’s one and only **Son**.

John 5:25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice **of** the **Son of God** and those who hear will live.

John 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the **Son of Man** will give you. For on him **God** the Father has placed his seal **of** approval.”

John 10:36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me **of** blasphemy because I said, ‘I am **God**’s **Son**’?

John 11:27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the **Son of God**, who is to come into the world.”

John 19:7 The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the **Son of God**.”

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the **Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Observations?

BIG IDEA 5: LORD

LORD was the primary OT designation of YHWH. God appears as LORD =Adonai—so that never is the holy name of God used as the regular or “common” way of referring to God. When Jesus takes on the title LORD, he identifies with Adonai=YHWH or God.

Mk 11. 3 The Lord has need of it—Jesus’ disciples being told how to ask for the donkey on Palm Sunday

Mt. 7.7 Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, ...

Jn 13.13 You call me teacher and Lord, and so I am ...

Jn 20.28 Thomas: my Lord and my God ...

LORD becomes the way the church recognizes the deity of Christ.

The Hebrew Maranatha—Even so, Lord, come quickly is thought to be the earliest Christian confession. 1 Cor. 16.22.

BIG IDEA 6: Self-revelatory acts

- Forgives sin;
- presumes to know what God's law really is;
- raised the dead;
- claims to be LORD of the Sabbath...
- *You can name many more...*

BIG IDEA 7: The witness of the church.

Westminster Confession of Faith – Of Christ the Mediator

6.043 1. *It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man,(1) the prophet,(2) priest,(3) and king;(4) the head and Savior of his Church,(5) the heir of all things,(6) and judge of the world;(7) unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed,(8) and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.(9)*

6.044 2. *The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature,(10) with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin:(11) being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance.(12) So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion.(13) Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.(14)*

6.045 3. *The Lord Jesus in his human nature thus united to the divine, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure;(15) having in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,(16) in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell:(17) to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a Mediator and Surety.(18) Which office he took not unto himself, but was thereunto called by his Father;(19) who put all power and judgment into his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the*

same.(20)

- 6.046 4. *This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake,(21) which, that he might discharge, he was made under the law,(22) and did perfectly fulfill it;(23) endured most grievous torments immediately in his soul,(24) and most painful sufferings in his body;(25) was crucified and died,(26) was buried, and remained under the power of death, yet saw no corruption.(27) On the third day he arose from the dead,(28) with the same body in which he suffered;(29) with which also he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father,(30) making intercession;(31) and shall return to judge men and angels, at the end of the world.(32)*
- 6.047 5. *The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father;(33) and purchased not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him.(34)*
- 6.048 6. *Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after his incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman, which should bruise the serpent's head, and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world, being yesterday and today the same and for ever.(35)*
- 6.049 7. *Christ, in the work of mediation, acteth according to both natures; by each nature doing that which is proper to itself;(36) yet by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes, in Scripture, attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.(37)*

Titles Gospels give to Jesus

BIG IDEA 1: Messiah—

BIG IDEA 2: Son of David

BIG IDEA 3: Son of Man

BIG IDEA 4: Son of God

BIG IDEA 5: LORD

BIG IDEA 6: Self revelatory acts

BIG IDEA 7: The witness of the church.

Comparison ADAM & JESUS

OT		NT	
OT Ref	Features	NT Ref	Features
Gen 3.1-7	•	Mt 4.1-11/Lk 4.1-14	•
Gen 3.5	•	Phil 2.6	•
Gen 1.26-27		Col 1.15	•
Gen 3.6-7		Mt 4.10	•
Alike	•	Different	•

The Bible Project 2.03

Consider the following if you choose to prepare for next class:

Next Week: Jesus the Teacher.

Using these references, note in writing what makes Jesus' teaching different from the other teachers in his day (Sadducees, Scribes, Pharisees, lawyers, etc.): [Jn 3.31-35](#); [Matt 7.28](#); [Luke 4.32](#); [19.47-48](#).

To what extent are the nature, purpose and will of God revealed apart from Jesus Christ? Discuss in your writing based at least on [John 14.8-11](#); [Hebrews 1. 1-2](#) and John 17. 1-26.

Read Mark 4 and Luke 15—parables.

Read the Gospel of John, and list the encounters of Jesus with the people.

Think about this: Who or what was the main subject of Jesus' teaching?

Markers:

Mark 4, Matthew 13, Luke 15-16 parables

John 3 Nicodemus must be born again

John 4 Woman at Jacob's well

John 11 Lazarus raised