



“Jesus, Son of God”
Chapter 25



“Who do people say I am?”

Not only an important question for Jesus to ask, but important for us to consider.

John the Baptist

Elijah

Another prophet

Who do you say I am?

Peter answered: “You are the Messiah.”

Son of man / Son of God



In the Gospel of Mark the writer refers to Jesus as both, thus he fulfills both designations.

Jesus is Son of man in that he takes our place.

Son of man brings us in contact with what we believe to be his human nature.

Son of man puts Jesus in the context of the end times.

The term puts Jesus in the connotation of "the expected."



When in Mark he uses the term Son of God it has something to do "The surprising."

Son of God was used more as a designation not a title.

At Jesus baptism, the voice says "This is my beloved Son."

At the Transfiguration Peter hears "This is my beloved Son."

The Centurion at the cross acknowledges Jesus to be the Son of God.

Kingdom of God / Kingdom of David



Jesus speaks in terms of the Kingdom of God in His parables.

Because His parables are often misunderstood the Kingdom of God surprises.

The people are looking for the Kingdom of David to be reestablished.

The Kingdom of David is often proclaimed as coming.

So in terms of all of these there is the expected and the surprising.



The expectations are overfilled.

The surprising contradicts the expected, not by denying it, but by overwhelmingly fulfilling it.

The people of the day are expecting the Son of man and the kingdom of David to be fulfilled.

They find their surprise in the Kingdom of God and in the Son of God.



The understanding of the terms Son of man and Son of God are beautifully laid out in the second article of the Apostle Creed in Luther's catechism.

It is explained in:

Jesus two natures: Man/God
Human/Divine

State of Humiliation and the State of Exaltation



In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus status is transformed through His baptism and temptation as the Son of God.

This person Jesus and His ministry is unique for Mark, it is to be set apart from all others.

One scholar put it this way. "And that New Human Being, the Son of God and the Son of Man, is "created " and revealed as such precisely through and by the transformative ritual of baptism."



For Mark in introducing the Son of Man, there is a new age dawning.

This new age is cast in those words. "Whoever is ashamed of me and my words...of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

The reader/hearer must understand, it is time to take up your cross and to follow Jesus. In this way the Son of Man will honor you by becoming a servant just as he was a servant.



The transfiguration gives us a glimpse into the real glory of the Son of Man.

There is something special about this moment in time, about this gathering.

The disciples trembled at the sight and fell on their faces.

Yet, they were charged not to tell anyone what had happened until the Son of Man had risen.



The passion predictions were stumbling blocks for even his closest followers.

In the Gospels, it is understood that Jesus made three predictions of his upcoming passion, each of those were met with some sort of opposition.

This is not who people were looking for, neither was it what the disciples had in mind.

This is again where the expectations and the surprise come into play in the ministry of Jesus.



In this chapter we get a glimpse into the misunderstanding regarding the Kingdom of David and the Kingdom of God.

People were looking for some political expectation not what Jesus was presenting.

In order to understand the two kingdoms one needed to see Jesus as the light of the world. For many this was too difficult, it a choice of knowing Jesus and the power He brought into your life or to stay in the darkness of this world.



One of the great discourses in seeing this opposition is to look at John 8:48-59.

When Jesus makes the claim to be "I Am" there was no mistake in what they heard Jesus saying. This was total blasphemy.

As faithful Jews they knew what they needed to do.



The raising of Lazarus sets the events of Holy Week in motion.

Lazarus is a dear friend, yes, Jesus could have prevented his death, but this is where we see God's story coming into play with the human story.

Jesus wanted it certain that everyone understood that Lazarus was dead.

Here we see the real Son of God showing his full potential.

This is the final straw for those in authority, people will now believe and follow him, this is not prudent or wise.



The Son of God had set his face toward Jerusalem, there was no turning back.

What we see is the effects of Jesus ministry as he heals, performs miracles and people begin to flock to him.

The triumphant entry is an opportunity for them to cheer and celebrate who Jesus was, but the celebration would not be long lived.

The Son of God was on a mission.



Behind the scenes of celebration and rejoicing something was brewing.

While the Kingdom of God was at hand, the Kingdom of this world was preparing one final assault.

Triumphant would be replaced with darkness. This too was temporary.

God's story and the human Story were taking a very dramatic twist, together.