



## Introduction: The Question That Defines Faith

In a world where spirituality is often reduced to self-help advice and religion is diluted into motivational phrases, a crucial question arises: **Who really was Jesus of Nazareth?** Many admire Him as a great moral teacher, an inspiring prophet, or a peaceful revolutionary. But if He was only that, why has His message divided history into “before” and “after”?

Jesus did not present Himself merely as another wise man. **He claimed to be God.** And that declaration demands a response: He was either a lunatic, a liar, or truly the Lord of the universe. This dilemma, popularized by writer and apologist C.S. Lewis, is not an intellectual game but a question that defines eternal life.

### 1. Jesus: Just a Moral Teacher? The Problem of Reducing His Identity

Many people, even outside Christianity, acknowledge that Jesus taught high moral values: **love your neighbor, forgive your enemies, seek justice.** But if He was only an ethical teacher, why did His words generate so much controversy?

The rabbis of His time did not reject Him for preaching love but because **He equated Himself with God.** In John 10:30, Jesus declares: “*I and the Father are one.*” The Jews understood exactly what this meant: “*You, a mere man, claim to be God*” (John 10:33). If Jesus was not God, then His most radical teaching—His own identity—would be either blasphemy or madness.

#### C.S. Lewis' Argument: “Lunatic, Liar, or Lord”

C.S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity*, clearly lays out this reasoning:

*“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 a 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."*

In other words:

- If Jesus knew He wasn't God but said He was, He was a liar.
- If He believed He was God but wasn't, He was insane.
- But if He truly was God, then He deserves all our worship.

There is no middle ground. **Jesus did not leave room for us to consider Him "just a good teacher."**

## 2. The Theological Implications: Why Is It Crucial That Jesus Is God?

If Jesus is God, then:

### A) His Sacrifice on the Cross Has Infinite Power

A mere man could not redeem all of humanity. But if Jesus is the incarnate Word (John 1:1), then His death **has universal redemptive value**. As St. Paul says: *"In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"* (Colossians 2:9).

### B) His Teachings Are Not Suggestions but Divine Commands

When Jesus says *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6), it is not an opinion but **an absolute truth**. If He is God, then rejecting Him is rejecting salvation itself.

### C) The Resurrection Confirms His Divinity

A prophet dies and remains in the grave. **But God conquers death**. The Resurrection is not a myth but the seal of authenticity for Christ (Romans 1:4).



### 3. Practical Applications: How Does My Life Change If Jesus Is God?

If we accept that Jesus is Lord, **our faith ceases to be a philosophy and becomes a relationship with the Creator.** How does this translate into daily life?

#### Pastoral Guide: Steps to Live Out This Truth

1. **Examine Your Faith:** Do you believe in the historical Jesus or a “custom-made Jesus”? Ask God to reveal His true face to you.
2. **Pray with Humility:** Like Thomas, say to Him: *“My Lord and my God!”* (John 20:28).
3. **Adjust Your Morality:** If Jesus is God, His commands (such as confessing sins, loving enemies, living chastely) are non-negotiable.
4. **Proclaim His Kingship:** Do not be afraid to defend His divinity in a world that wants to reduce Him to just another moral teacher.

### Conclusion: The Most Important Decision of Your Life

Jesus did not come to give us good advice. **He came to save us.** If He was just a man, then Christianity is a fraud. But if He is God, then **nothing in life is more important than following Him.**

As St. Josemaría Escrivá said: *“He is not a myth, not an old story. He is Christ, living today and forever.”*

**What will you choose to believe?**