

Following is the outline from a message by Pastor Dave Tietjen at Evangel Baptist Church, Wheaton IL
www.evbapt.org, a reflection for Christmas originally scheduled for December 18.

That service was cancelled due to dangerously cold weather.

Also available are the pdf file of the [PowerPoint® version](#) of the notes, as well as an [audio podcast](#)

Message Notes

“Putting Jesus in His Place”

Matthew 16:13-17 (NKJV)

January 8, 2017

A Poem Quoted: Jesus’ Distinctive Place

All the armies that ever marched,
all the navies that ever sailed,
all the parliaments that ever sat,
all the kings that ever reigned
put together have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that One Solitary
Life. (Anonymous)

A Path Traveled: Jesus’ Deliberate Journey to Present Claim

- ◆ His Acts of Wonder
- ◆ His Announcement of Warning (Matthew 16:4)

A Place Chosen: Ceasarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13a)

- ◆ Its Pagan Influence: Originally Panias (birthplace of Pan)
- ◆ Its Political Influence: Herod’s Son Philip

A Probe Raised: Jesus’ Direct Inquiry to Establish Claim

^{13b}“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” (Matthew 16:13b-14)

- ◆ Illustrating Popular Opinion Then
 - ◆ “John the Baptist:” A Messenger Returned
 - ◆ “Elijah:” A Call to Repentance Ignored
 - ◆ “Jeremiah:” A Warning of Judgment Rejected
 - ◆ “Other Prophets:” A Divine Acknowledged Emissary
 - ◆ Though Moved By Miracles . . .
 - ◆ They Missed His True Identity

- ◆ Illuminating Popular Opinion Today

- ◆ Inviting Public Acknowledgment of Truth

¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 16:15-17)

- ◆ Personal Priority – “You (all) First”
- ◆ Precise Identity (“The” word 4x)

◆ **Profound Affirmation**

◆ **As Christianity Is Presented**

- ◆ **Leaders of World Religions Important**
- ◆ **Person of Jesus Indispensable to Christians**

◆ **As Matthew Portrayed: The Messiah Foretold**

“To confess Jesus as Christ is to acknowledge that God has appointed and anointed Him for a special task – specifically, to save His people from their sins.”
(Kevin Vanhoozer)

◆ **As Jesus Proclaimed: Divine Savior**

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
(Luke 24:27)

◆ **In His Teaching (John 6:35; 8:12; 11:25; 14:6)**

Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”
(John 8:58)

◆ **In His Title: “Son of Man”**

Saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”
(Luke 9:22)

◆ **As Peter Pronounced: Christ, Son of Living God**

- ◆ **Not Just Leader, But Lord**
- ◆ **Not Just Spokesman, But Son (2 Samuel 7:14; Psalm 2)**
- ◆ **Not Just Idea, But Incarnation**

A Profession Rendered

◆ **With Mind**

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ is news, good news: the best and most important news that any human being ever hears. . . . This Gospel identifies Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, as the Son of God and God the Son, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, whose incarnation, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension fulfilled the Father’s saving will.”

“We affirm that Jesus Christ is God Incarnate (John 1:14). The virgin-born descendant of David (Romans 1:3), he had a true human nature, was subject to the Law of God (Galatians 4:5) and was like us at all points, except without sin (Hebrews 2:17; 7:26-28).”

“We affirm that faith in the true humanity of Christ is essential to faith in the Gospel.”

“We deny that anyone who rejects the humanity of Christ, his incarnation, or his sinlessness, or who maintains that these truths are not essential to the Gospel, will be saved (1 John 4:2-3).”
(*The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration*)

“To be almost right about Jesus is to be totally wrong.”
(Ray Pritchard)

◆ **And Heart**

◆ **A Tender Story: Childlike Faith**

“The Gospel is so simple that small children can understand it and so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches.”

(*The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration*)