

BABY JESUS – MIGHTY GOD?

Introduction

1. Last week we got a good start looking at the names of Jesus from Isaiah 9. We talked about the Lord being the Wonderful Counselor. I suggested to you that unless we see the wonder of Jesus, we would not worship Him, at least not for long or with much passion. We also need encouragement to stay focused on Him, or otherwise our wonder of Him will fade and whatever we call what we do together on Sunday morning, as well as what we do privately through the week, it won’t really be worship. He is a wonderful counselor, but if I fail to see that and fail to respond to Him in that way, it does not matter too much what His name is! I hope you find in Jesus a wonderful counselor! That is a great start.
2. Having said all of that, we have a problem. From the beginning, God made all things to glorify Him. God specifically made people to be thoughtful, intelligent, responsive worshipers. And God made it very clear that He alone was worthy of worship, since everything was made by Him and for Him. To worship anything but God was a serious affront to God. To bow before anything else is high treason. Equally serious is for anyone or anything to be substituted for God and to receive the worship of these thoughtful, intelligent, responsive worshipers. Both the idol and the idol worshiper are an abomination to God. God is to be worshipped (it was never intended to be optional) and that worship is to be exclusively toward Him. No one or no thing is to receive worship, but God alone.
3. That brings us to Jesus. I said last week that we should worship Him in wonder - but we can only legitimately worship Him if He is God. Now I know that I am preaching to the proverbial choir – that most of you already accept the fact that Jesus is fully deity. But not everyone believes Jesus is God – maybe not even all who are hearing these words. Further, just because we say we believe Jesus is God, is not the same thing as living in light of that belief. True faith is not just a creed; it is a life. Signing my name to a doctrinal statement is not the same thing as living my daily life, making decisions and acting upon them with the conscious conviction that all that I am saying and doing is before Jesus as God, and said and done with a desire to please God and glorify God

in those actions and attitudes. I cannot worship Jesus unless I **believe** and **live** the truth that He is the mighty God.

4. Here is today's sermon in a sentence. ***The Bible declares Jesus to be the mighty God and calls upon us to see Him and savor Him as such, and in so doing, because of who He is, we will find all of the demands of life satisfied in Him.***

I. CLAIMS MADE ABOUT HIM

A. The **names** He is called – These names that Jesus is called are significant because they are names that could only be used of God.

1. The Father calls Him God – The first chapter of Hebrews is really quite amazing. The entire book was designed to show the supremacy of Christ in all things. It begins with the declaration that Jesus, the Son, is “the radiance of the glory of God, and the exact imprint of his nature.” The question is asked, “For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’?” The text continues with the Father speaking, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”, followed by “Let all God's angels worship him,” followed by the Father speaking directly to the Son, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...” There is no way around this. God the Father calls God the Son, “God!”
2. The disciples called Him God – Thomas' remark in John 20:28 is clear. Seeing for himself the risen Lord, Thomas says to Jesus, “My Lord and my God.” Some would see this as a less than appropriate expletive, but that is clearly not what Thomas was saying. He was declaring the deity of Jesus. The Apostle John recorded the account of the healing of the man who had been an invalid for 38 years. Prompted in part because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath, the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus. Don't miss what John tells us here. “Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.**” They were exactly right. That is what Jesus was doing. And there is more. John here gives us his definition of “the Son of God.” Claiming equality with the Father was claiming deity. (Son of God described position, not origin. Jesus was also called the “Son of man.” His origin was not from man, but the phrase denotes true humanity. So, “the Son of God” denotes true deity).

B. The **attributes** that are ascribed to Him

1. Attributes of greatness – Statements like, “before Abraham was I am”, declare

eternality. The statement, "Knowing what was in man", suggests omniscience.

Telling His disciples that He would be with them forever, speaks of omnipresence.

2. Attributes of goodness – The attributes of holiness and truth and love and righteousness and faithfulness and mercy are all affirmed by the disciples. These all declare that Jesus is the mighty God.

C. The **works** of which He is credited

1. Creation – John (chapter 1) and the author of Hebrews (chapter 1) and Paul in Colossians (chapter 1), all declare Jesus to have created all things and that all things hold together because of Him. How could He be the Creator without being mighty God?
2. Forgiveness of sin – On several occasions Jesus declared a person's sins to be forgiven. We can forgive others when they sin against us, but we cannot forgive their sins. We can forget about or excuse another's sin, but we are unable to cleanse them from sin. Only God can forgive sins. Yet Jesus forgave others their sins and declared them to be the partakers of eternal life! Only God can do that.
3. Power over death – On at least three occasions Jesus raised people from the dead. And the Scriptures suggest that He also raised Himself from the dead ("I have power to lay down my life and power to take it up again"). While it is true that some mere humans (like Elijah and Elisha and Peter and Paul) were used as instruments in raising the dead, they certainly never claimed to be the power behind such resuscitations as Jesus did ("I am the resurrection and the life"). And Jesus' power was not merely in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm as well!
4. Final judge of the world – John 5:21-22 ties these two together, ***For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.*** Surely the claims about Him affirm Him to be the "the mighty God." But what did He say about Himself?

II. CLAIMS MADE BY HIM

A. He is the supreme object of faith – There are several places we could turn to demonstrate this.

1. Sometimes Jesus referenced faith in Him to faith in the Father ("Trust in God; trust also in me" and, "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent").

2. Sometimes Jesus referenced faith in Him without reference to the Father, thus making Himself alone the true object of a person's faith ("Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life..."). If He is the object of true saving faith, He must be God.
- B. He is the supreme source of satisfaction – I love this part!
1. Listed – Listen to these claims that Jesus made. He claimed to have and be the source for the knowledge of God, the way to God, the door to salvation, light for the soul, water for life, the bread of God, rest for the soul, the source of true spiritual guidance, security from danger, fruit-bearing energy, as well as life and resurrection!
 2. Explained – Everything we truly need and long for is found in Jesus. The reason it is found in Jesus is because He is the mighty God. There is nothing that He cannot supply in terms of what we truly need.

C. He is the unique Son of the Father

1. Jesus said what no Jew would ever say by speaking of God as “My Father.” Again and again Jesus claimed an exclusive relationship. He never described Himself as being born in Bethlehem to Mary, but always as having come down from heaven, sent by the Father. O, there was a baby born, but there was also a Son given! And that was Jesus’ way of making known that He is the mighty God!
2. Things that the Father did were declared by Jesus as things He also did. “The Father is working and I am working.” Jesus claimed that to know Him was to know the Father. He told His critics to believe the works that He did, “that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” He went so far as to say, “I and the Father are one.” He made these claims because they are true. He is the mighty God! Now all of this is important to know but how does this impact me right now? There are dozens of correct answers to that question. If He is not the mighty God, then I have no salvation. I have no hope. I have no future. All of the longings of my heart and the desperate needs of my soul will go unsatisfied. But since He is the mighty God, all of those things can be true for me. But I want to return to and zero in on the matter of worship. Let’s move in that direction as we consider responses made toward Jesus.

III. RESPONSES MADE TOWARD HIM

A. Jesus accepted worship

1. To worship anything other than God, no matter how exalted the creature or object might be, is idolatry. Paul and Barnabas ran into this in Lystra in Acts 14. The people identified them as Greek gods and continued to try to offer sacrifices to them. Paul and Barnabas worked very hard to restrain them from this terrible idolatry. No man is worthy of worship. At the revelation of Jesus, the Apostle John was so overwhelmed by what he saw, he dropped prostrate before an angel, prepared to worship the heavenly creature. The angel ordered him to stop and worship only God. No angel is worthy of worship.
2. Yet Jesus accepted worship from His disciples with no corrections to them. After He walked on water, He stilled the storm and then got into the disciples’ boat. “Those in the boat **worshiped** him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” After His resurrection, Jesus met the women who had come from the empty tomb and were

on their way to tell the disciples what the angel had told them. When Jesus appeared before them, they took hold of His feet and **worshiped** Him! And He never stopped them or redirected them or rebuked them. He accepted their worship! But it goes further.

- B. Jesus demanded worship – Surely John 5:23 is clear: “that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.” To honor here is to worship.
- C. Jesus will forever be the focal point of worship – The Revelation records that all of heaven’s hosts will worship the Lord Jesus. *To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! And the four living creatures said ‘Amen!’ and the elders fell down and **worshiped**.*

Conclusion

1. All of this being said, we review our response to Jesus. Since He is the mighty God, not only is it appropriate **to worship** Him, we **must worship** Him! Not to worship Him is to fail to see Him as God and that is high treason. If we fail to give Him our attention, that can only mean that our attention is fixed elsewhere – and if it is, that again is the essence of idolatry! How do we see Jesus? He is the mighty God! We must respond to Him appropriately! For lack of a better word, that is the hard side of this title. He is the mighty God. We must worship Him! But there is also a softer side for those of us who do see Him as the mighty God.
2. Because He is the mighty God, there is nothing He cannot do. That is why the imprisoned Apostle Paul told the Philippians, “I can do **all things through Christ who strengthens me.**” The reason that is true is because He is the mighty God! Paul went on to say, *And **my God will supply every need of yours** according to his riches in glory **in Christ Jesus.*** Did you notice that **every need** is supplied in Christ? Do you see how He satisfies the demands of life because He is the mighty God?
3. I am not sure how many there are, but I can think of a few “if-only” statements in the Bible. Job was complaining if only there was someone to arbitrate his situation – an umpire to call it correctly. Mary and Martha each lamented that if only Jesus would have been present their brother would not have died. The woman who had a long history of bleeding and had spent all her money on doctors who had not been able to help her, she thought, if only I can touch the hem of His garment, then I will be healed.

The if-only's of life that have sapped our strength and frayed our emotions and dulled our thinking are finally satisfied in Jesus Christ, who shall be called the mighty God!

4. What demand are you facing in your life? Is it physical or financial or marital or emotional or spiritual or all of the above! Those demands can be satisfied in the One who is the wonderful counselor, the mighty God! But these are not automatic – not even for believers.
5. Just like last week, Jesus is the wonderful counselor, but I may miss His wonder and ignore His counsel. So today, Jesus is the mighty God, and how I respond to Him does not change that truth, but if I do not recognize His deity and thus fail to live in light of it, I will not realize the softer side of this great truth. And I will continue to be overwhelmed with the demands of life and will find no satisfaction in my soul.
6. I began with this: ***The Bible declares Jesus to be the mighty God and calls upon us to see Him and savor Him as such, and in so doing, because of who He is, we will find all of the demands of life satisfied in Him.*** First you have to see Him and then you must savor Him, and when you do, you will find in Him the wonderful satisfaction of having all of your demands met in the mighty God, the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!