

Luke 22:70-71

“We Have Heard It from His Own Lips”

8th Sunday af. Pentecost

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Our Redeemer

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Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto you from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior
and God our Heavenly Father. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

[**Introduction**] Sometime during the final year of his ministry
our Lord conducted an opinion poll among his disciples.

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

As one might expect, he received differing answers.

- “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah;
- and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” Jesus asked, pressing the point. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter, you’ll remember, responded

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (**Mt. 16:14-16**).

They’re still doing polls today.

They’re still asking, “Who do you think Jesus is?”

What’s disturbing about the answers people offer is that,

while people may say many pleasant things about Jesus,
their answers fall short of the confession Simon Peter made.

But one of the most damaging and worst statements you hear today is:

“Jesus never said he was God.”

You hear it on TV. You hear it in the lunch room. You hear it at the shopping mall.

That simply isn’t true, and, remarkably,

Jesus’ own enemies in the first century wouldn’t have accepted that one.

Consider this: During the early morning trial,

Caiaphas the high priest couldn’t stand the bumbling and fumbling anymore.

He took this farce into his own hands:

“Are you not going to answer?” he thundered at Jesus.

“What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”

But Jesus remained silent.

Then the high priest persisted: “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God” (Mt. 26:62, 63).

Hear what he was asking?

People might say, “Well, what’s so special about that?”

I mean, we’re all sons and daughters of God, right?”

Caiaphas wasn’t asking,

“Do you believe that you are one of God’s many creatures, one of his offspring?”

He wasn’t asking,

“Do you believe, in a generic sort of way, that everybody can call God ‘Father?’”

The high priest was asking Jesus:

- Are you claiming that you are *the* Son of God?
- Are you claiming that you are one with the Creator of the universe?
- Are you claiming that you are equal to the Father?
- Are you claiming you are the one the LORD was talking about in Psalm 2:
‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father’?
- Are you claiming that you are deity wrapped in the form of humanity?”

This question Jesus couldn’t disregard. “Yes,” he answered, “it is as you say.”

There was no evasion in Jesus’ words.

“You are right in saying I am. Yes, it’s exactly as you say.

You’ve just said, in your own words, everything I’ve been trying to tell you.”

Jesus clearly confessed he was God.

- He was identifying himself as that “one like a son of man” the prophet Daniel saw in his vision, “coming on the clouds of heaven” (Da. 7:13).
- He was claiming to be the one who will come out of the sky to bring every man and woman to judgment.

Either the man who made such a claim is a lunatic, or he’s absolutely right.

At that – the whole council sat forward in their chairs.

They all asked, “*You* – are *you* claiming to be that Son?”

Again: “You are right in saying I am.”

They replied, “We have heard it from his own lips.”

Jesus, again, clearly confessed that he was God.

If what Jesus said on the night he was on trial isn't enough to convince you
– some people are harder to convince than others –
consider what else Jesus said about himself.

Consider this: When God identified himself to Moses at the burning bush, he said, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (**Ex. 3:14**). That Hebrew name, “I AM,” which, if we spelled it in English letters, would read *Yahweh*, was a sacred name to Jews.

Fourteen and a half centuries later Jesus told a group of listeners, “You father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day: he saw it and was glad ... Before Abraham was born, I am” (**Jn. 8:56, 58**).

Or consider this: Jesus once told a crippled man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Some of the teachers of the law immediately reacted, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

The only one who can forgive sins is the one who has been wronged by those sins. Jesus was claiming deity! Jesus then proved he had authority to forgive sins by healing the man who had been paralyzed (**Mk. 2:5-9**).

Or consider this: Jesus said once,
“I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers (**Mt. 23:34**).

“I am sending ...”

What else can that mean, but that we was the one who sent all the Old Testament prophets? He gave them their message. The prophets, several thousand times, announced, “This is what the LORD says.”

Jesus himself said, “All [should] honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him” (**Jn. 5:23**).

The way to honor the Father is to praise him as God.

Jesus said, “I should receive the same honor!”

Want more? What kind of qualities do you expect of God?

Holiness, right? Omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, eternal existence?

What does the Bible say about Jesus?

- He “had no sin” (**2 Cor. 5:21**) – **holiness**.
- “Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him” (**Jn. 6:64**) – **omniscience**.
- “Jesus ... said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’” (**Mt. 28:18**) – **omnipotence**.
- He said, “Surely I am with you always” (**Mt. 28:20**) – **omnipresence**.
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (**Heb. 13:8**) – he is **eternal and unchangeable**.

Still more? “In the beginning was the Word,” John’s Gospel says,
“and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (**Jn. 1:1**).

Jesus never said he was God?

Sorry TV commentator, you’re wrong.

Sorry classmate, you’re wrong.

Sorry neighbor, you’re wrong.

Jesus clearly confessed he was God, and the Scriptures clearly support his claim.

[*Jews Understood*] And the Jews clearly understood what Jesus claimed.

“Why do we need any more testimony?”

They understood what Jesus claimed.

Jesus was crucified because people understood him perfectly.

They understood what Jesus claimed, and they rejected it.

[*Conclusion*] What about us?

Today we can say, “We have heard it from his own lips.”

Jesus clearly confessed that he was – and is – God, and his bitterest enemies clearly understood what he claimed.

Martin Luther said once, “This article, that Christ is both very God and very man, is the rock on which our eternal salvation and welfare are built. On this we are baptized; on this we live and die” (**LW 22:25**). Amen.

You are the body of Christ, each one of you part of it! Amen!