



## *What Did Jesus Say About Himself?*

By Kurt von Schleicher

Have you ever looked at some of the seemingly audacious, seemingly crazy things that Jesus Christ said about Himself? Have you ever taken a close look at some of the works that He pulled off that actually backed up the words He spoke? Christ was no slight-of-mouth, slight-of-hand illusionist, trendy trickster or some Las Vegas styled magician, but His claims and deeds are so over-the-top-wild that they make even the most popular “wonder-workers” of our day come off as ridiculously innocuous, unskilled and sub-elementary in comparison! As you check out the words and impact that Christ put forth (especially in their own context within the four Gospel accounts), they might even keep you up at night wondering about their veracity and their meaning for you personally. Here are some of them...

1. Jesus said that He was in the Father and that the Father was in Him (See John 14:11).
2. He in fact claimed to be one with the Father (John 10:30).
3. Jesus Christ said that whoever heard His word and believed on Him that sent Him, would not come into condemnation, but would pass from death unto life (John 5:24).
4. He said that He came that we people might have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).
5. Multiple times Jesus Christ acknowledged that God the Father had sent Him to earth.
6. Jesus said that for a person to believe on Him, this was equivalent to that person believing in God the Father, because He (Jesus) was equal with the Father (John 5:18). The Old Testament Scriptures (at least seven times) equated the coming Messiah with God the Father, as well (see Psalm 45:6,7; Isaiah 9:6, 7:14; Micah 1:3; Zechariah 14:9; Isaiah 44:6 compared to Job 19:25, Malachi 3:1).
7. He said that for a person to see Him (Jesus) this was the same as seeing God.
8. He claimed to be the Light and to have come as a Light into the world so that those who believe in Him would not remain in darkness (John 8:12; John 9:5).
9. Jesus claimed to be greater than the temple (see Matthew 12:6).
10. He claimed to be greater than king Solomon (the second wisest man who ever lived on this planet. see Matthew 12:42).

11. He confirmed that Peter's proclamation of Him as the Christ, the Son of God, was true and was revealed to Peter by the Father Himself (Matthew 16:15).
12. He claimed to be the Lord of the Sabbath (and this was in response to the religious Pharisees making a big stink publicly about Christ's activities to help people on the Sabbath day (See Mark 2:29).
13. He proclaimed His purpose in coming was to give Himself as a ransom for many (which would imply that we needed that to happen. See Mark 10:45).
14. Jesus flat-out claimed to be the "Christ" (see Mark 14: 61-63).
15. Jesus claimed to be the One whom Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms foretold people about and the very One in whose Name repentance and full remission of sins should be preached, (and this speaks to us Christians of what we need to be about—fishing for souls by participating in this activity. See Luke 24: 44-47).
16. He claimed to be in heaven even while He was speaking to people on earth, indicating that God has both divinity and omnipresence (John 3:13).
17. He claimed that whoever believed in Him would not perish, but they would have everlasting life (John 3:14-16; 6:47; 10:28-29; 5:24).
18. He said that He was the One who could give "**living water**" so that people wouldn't thirst again spiritually (John 4:10, 13-14, John 7:37-39).
19. He claimed to be the Messiah (John 4: 25-26).
20. He claimed to be the Son of God many times over (i.e., John 5: 17-18; 9: 35 and 10:36. And the reaction Christ received from saying this indicates the people who heard Him understood exactly what Jesus meant in claiming to be the Son of God).
21. Jesus Christ claimed that the Scriptures testified of Himself and they pointed to Him (John 5:39).
22. Jesus claimed to be the bread of life Who could satisfy all spiritual hunger for those people who would humbly come into a right relationship with God through Him (John 6:35-48; John 6:51).
23. He promised that He'd physically raise up all those who believe on Him at the last day (John 6:39-40).
24. He claimed to be from above and not of this world (John 8:23).
25. He said that whoever does not believe in Him would die in their sins (John 8: 24).
26. Jesus claimed that He not only was in existence before Abraham was born and lived on this earth, but He also claimed to be the "**I am**" who actually spoke to Moses personally (See Exodus 3:13-14; John 8:58. And the reaction of the people to Christ's statement also shows us they knew exactly what He meant [though hardheartedly, they refused to accept Him or what He said]).
27. Jesus claimed to be the door of the sheep (John 10: 7-9).
28. Jesus said He is the good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14).
29. Jesus foretold His betrayal so that when it actually took place—like all the other earlier prophecies about His arrival and life also actually happened—the people would know exactly who He was (See John 13:18-19).
30. Jesus said that He was the true vine without Whom we can bear no fruit at all (John 15:1, 5-6).
31. Jesus claimed that we Christians have peace in Him and that He had overcome the world (John 16: 33).
32. Jesus Christ said that eternal life is in personally knowing the Father and knowing Himself—asserting that They both, He and the Father, are knowable Persons in a relational way (John 17:3).
33. Jesus Christ said that He came to save the world (John 12:47).

34. Jesus said that those who do not believe in Him will be judged by the words that He spoke (See John 3:36; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26).
35. Jesus Christ claimed that His teachings did not originate with Him alone, but that He authoritatively spoke the very words that the Father commanded Him to speak (See John 3:34; 14:10).
36. Jesus Christ unequivocally declared that His words are Spirit and Life (See John 6:63).
37. Jesus said during His earthly ministry that He would be raised from the dead after He was crucifixion for the sins of humanity (see John 10:17; Luke 9:22, 11:29,30, 16:31, 18:33; Mark 8:31, 9:9, 9:31, 10:34, 14:28; Matthew 16:4, 16:21, 17:9, 17:23, 20:19, 26:32, 27:63).
38. Jesus claimed to have authority to forgive people's sins (Luke 5:20, 21, 24).
39. Jesus claimed that apart from Himself—apart from being in union with Himself—a person could do nothing (John 15:5).
40. Jesus claimed to be the Messiah that was prophesied about in the Old Testament (see John 1:49-51 and 4:26).
41. He said, **"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live"** and later He came out of the grave to prove this (See John 11:25). Of course there are other things that corroborate and attest to Jesus Christ's deity that are not listed here (i.e.: the fulfillment of prophecy, His works, the testimony of others, the testimony of the Father, **"This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased."** See Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 2 Peter 1:17).
42. Jesus claimed that He would come again at the close of the age. Did you know that there are no prophesies of Scripture that need to be fulfilled before the rapture of the Church takes place. It's later than it's ever been before! Are you ready to meet Him, or do you want to be left behind? (See Mark 13:26).

Those are some of the revolutionary claims of Jesus Christ. They're pretty radical huh? I like what one of my favorite authors, Mister C.S. Lewis, said of these claims:

*Then comes the real shock. Among these Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God. He claims to forgive sins. He says He has always existed. He says He is coming to judge the world at the end of time. Now let us get this clear. Among Pantheists, like the Indians, anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about. But this man, since He was a Jew, could not mean that kind of God. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world Who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips.<sup>1</sup>*

Mister C.S. Lewis went on to discuss that one of the most shocking aspects of Jesus' claims is that He said He could forgive all of our sins. He wrote this:

*Now unless the speaker is God, this is really so preposterous as to be comic. We can all understand how a man forgives offences against Himself. You tread on my toe and I forgive you, you steal my money and I forgive you. But what should we make of a man, Himself unrobbed and untrodden on, who announced that he forgave you for treading on other men's toes and stealing other men's money?*

*Asinine fatuity is the kindest description we should give of his conduct. Yet this is what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, and never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offences. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin. In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivalled by any other character in history. Yet (and this is the strange, significant thing) even His enemies, when they read the Gospels, do not usually get the impression of silliness and conceit. Still less do unprejudiced readers. Christ says that He is "humble and meek" and we believe Him; not noticing that, if He were merely a man, humility and meekness are the very last characteristics we could attribute to some of His sayings.<sup>2</sup>*

I find this topic so interesting, but what do these words of Jesus mean for us today? They mean that you and I have a choice to make regarding His statements. You and I must either accept or reject these statements from Jesus Christ. We must either believe or disbelieve in what He said. These words mean that we have an option right before us ...to embrace, to ignore or to try our best to evade such statements and accountability. Lot of people think that they can avoid such a choice and the voice of their conscience by simply willing to ignore them, but ignoring the decision regarding Jesus Christ and not to decide about Him ...is to decide! You putting off such is decision won't make Christ or the most important decision of your life (to follow Him or not) go away.

Basically you are either on Christ's side today if you are born again spiritually or you are opposing Him—and there is no in-between. Jesus Himself said, "**He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.**"<sup>3</sup> Are you fishing for souls—gathering people unto God today as you cooperate with Christ's Spirit or is the negative influence of your life just scattering people farther away from a relationship with God through Christ? You might not even notice what kind of influence you are putting out. Jesus wants to show you His love in His eternal Kingdom for ever and ever. Will you let Him? If not, you won't like what you'll eventually get. Jesus indeed made all these claims and even if we don't like what Christ said, these words of His ...they demand a response from each one of us. And according to the choice each of us makes about Him and His words, we will each find ourselves within one of two groups, headed in one of two directions.

May I ask you if you think Christ was telling the truth? Was He a crazy man or was He simply lying for some strange reason to dupe people? Do you view Him as a deceiver—as a full-on scam-artist and fraud? Do you think that His motives pure or selfish? Do you believe that Jesus is God the sinless Son; the Creator of the entire universe, including the Creator of you and me? Was and is He the greatest Person who ever lived on earth? He worked many signs and wonders to prove that He meant business and could substantiate all that He said. If you don't believe what Jesus said, what are you basing your beliefs upon? How authoritative is what you are basing your beliefs upon?

Jesus in fact did say, "**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man can come to the Father except through Me.**"<sup>4</sup> That would mean that no other religion or guru can help you in Jesus' place and no other organization or prophet can save you. Jesus

said, ***"If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father."***<sup>5</sup> He said, ***"Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe for the very works sake."***<sup>6</sup>

Christ not only said that He was God in human flesh—the One Source of truth and the One who grants eternal life, He also went on to back up all that He said with conclusive proofs, or what we call miraculous "works."

These were authenticating signs that Jesus worked, because He loves people. He turned the water into wine, He walked on the water, and He calmed a raging storm by just speaking out. He touched and healed people from their different diseases. He cured leprosy for people. He made the lame to walk, He gave the blind their eye sight and He raised stone-cold dead people—yup, the stiff kind that you see on Doctor G—up from the dead! That's how He verified that He meant what He said and said what He meant.

Jesus also appeared alive after His cruel death on the cross—when He died to pay for your sins and mine—to over 500 by eyewitnesses! Yes, people like Mary, Peter, the Apostles and others saw Him, ate with Him, touched Him and they knew for sure that this was Jesus Christ.

One time Jesus said to a religious dude, a teacher of the Law that I'll call *Nick at night* these words: ***"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil"*** (Jn. 3:16-19).

Why did Jesus say all that? It was because He wanted to save Nick at night and because He also wants to save you rather than judge you. Will you let Him? Do you need to be "saved" today? I'm talking about the greatest type of salvation here. Are you willing to humble yourself and admit your need (i.e., Hey Lord; I am a sinner—please help and forgive me as I give you my entire life)? Are you willing to ditch all your wrong doings? I mean are you willing to let God change you inside—change your thinking and your direction so that you will be totally done with a life of sinning? Many people feel that they are good people today. Do you think you're a good person? Why should God, the just Judge of the universe, even allow you into His holy home—His celestial location where He is... even if you were a little better than some people? Have you ever broken His Ten Commandments? What do I mean by that? Have you ever taken God's Name in vain?—you know, been hacked-off at someone or something and instead of voicing a cuss word, you replaced that word with "God"? That would be blasphemy and it never ever goes unnoticed by the righteous holy Judge. Have you ever told one lie?—how about a white lie? Well, what would that make you? Wouldn't that ..like ...make you the L-word? I would never want to be the one to call you a liar ...ever! Let me ask you this: Have you ever stolen one thing? The Bible says, ***"You shall not steal"*** (Exd. 20:15). So if you have stolen, wouldn't that deed you did make you the T-word (you know... a *thi\_f*)?

Man, if you feel guilty inside when you hear all this said, why do you think that is? Could it be because you really are guilty? God gave us our conscience so that we would know when we break His holy Law. Everything He gave us was a gift. Your conscience is a gift from Him and the fact that you can feel guilty at all is also a gift. Some people have gone

against their conscience so much that they do not feel guilty any more. But think of guilt like that little warning light on the dashboard of your car when you are running out of oil. It flashes to help you—to save your motor. I'm glad that little light goes off in my car aren't you? The guilt we feel when we do something wrong tells us that we need to permanently turn away from a life of sin to Jesus Christ.

Have you ever lusted after even one person that you thought was a hottie?—maybe someone that you thought had a great looking rock-hard-bod? If so, Jesus said you are an adulterer at heart. Have you ever been angry with anyone—ticked off and fuming or just slightly angry at another person? That would make you a murderer at heart according to what God says.

If you have done all these things then God sees you as an unrighteous, blasphemous, lying, thieving, adulterer and murder at heart and warns that you are indeed culpable before Him. Do you still say that you are basically a good person?

You know what, the passing of lots of time, doing many good deeds and applying yourself in the reading of countless books for learning on how to become “the best you ever” ...won't erase your sins or gain you entrance into Heaven! Many think God will let them into heaven because He of course... is good, but because God is good He must thoroughly judge all guilty people. What many unrepentant people rely upon to later gain them entrance to Heaven (namely "God's goodness"), will actually gain them the judgment that they deserve. Sinners don't realize they're condemned already and God's wrath currently abides on them.<sup>7</sup> But Jesus mercifully paid the penalty for all your sins on Calvary's Cross so that you wouldn't have to go to that burning lake permanently. Hope for you is only to be found in Christ as you turn away from all your wrong doings to Him. Please don't reject Jesus and what He said. He's God's only provision for your sin! Have you already been *born again* spiritually? Are you sure this happened in you—where the Holy Spirit came inside of you to live or are you still living in sin now?

In 1977 I was living full throttle in a sinful lifestyle, but I became convicted when I read these words of Jesus. And sin was fun for a season, but then sin just grew moldier and moldier like rotten smelly algae that I couldn't make go away. I remember how I confessed and repented with some old grey headed ladies on a Thursday night in the spring in one of their homes near Newport Beach in California. I asked Jesus to forgive me, to come inside me, and to make me a new creation. Guess what? He showed up and answered my prayers. It was the greatest choice I ever made!

You know the Bible says that it's the fool who has said in his heart that there is no God. Surely you're no fool—you are here taking the time to read this thing, so you must be somewhat open to exploring the words of Christ and open to starting a relationship with Him. I dare you to do that ...no matter what any one of your friends would say!

You can do this today and Jesus will prove to you that He is still alive! Many people today want to come to know up-front before they believe in Jesus. Pete didn't do that. Simon Peter told Jesus, ***“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God”*** (Jn. 6:68-69, nasb). I encourage you to make the decision to believe first—do like Pete did! Why? Because you and I will one day die physically (that is if I don't beat you out of here in the rapture of the Church before you can even blink...). Please know that there is no getting right with God and no place called purgatory to work off all your bad deeds even

available after you croak! The Good News is that you are still on this side of the grass and you can choose Christ right now.

Hey, I definitely want you going up with me to live unendingly With Him. Why not? It's a place where only forgiven sinners are let in. We all need to be prepared for this place! The Bible tells us that ***"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"*** (Heb. 9:27). Yes, after God's time of judgment, every human who has ever lived will receive a resurrected body that's fit for either that celestial city or for destruction. Because again, everyone will find themselves existing F-O-R-E-V-E-R in one of two places, Heaven or Hell. There I go, I just said the H-word! Can you believe that slipped out like that? Anyway, I know you can handle that. Deep down inside you know that what I am saying is true. Yes, your future eternal address will be determined by whether or not you believe in what Jesus has said and whether you've been born anew spiritually through repentance and faith in Christ. [Come home](#) before dark! Get right with Christ in the light ...why get left out in the cold blight of night? Believe what He said.

So, what did Jesus say about Himself and His deeds? He said in John 12 verse 44 through 50 that: ***"He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."***

May I ask what you say about Jesus and what He did for you? What will you do about it?

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<sup>1</sup> Christian author, C. S. Lewis, said this in his book ***Mere Christianity*** (New York: Macmillan Co., 1943), pp. 54-55.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, see page number 55.

<sup>3</sup> See Luke 11:23.

<sup>4</sup> See John 14:6.

<sup>5</sup> See John 14:9.

<sup>6</sup> See John 14:11.

<sup>7</sup> See John 3:18 and 36.