

THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

Jesus, I found, bore little resemblance to the Mister Rogers figure I had met in Sunday School . . . for one thing, he was far less tame.

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

He was not at all like the psychologist's picture of the integrated, balanced, adjusted, happily married, employed, popular citizen. You can't really be very well "adjusted" to your world if it says you "have a devil" and ends by nailing you up naked to a stake of wood.

C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

CLAIMS (SYNOPTICS)

Matt 9:1-8 He has authority to forgive sin.
Mk 2:1-12
Lk 5:17-26

Matt 23:34-39 He sent the prophets to Israel.

Matt 26:62-65 He is the Judge of the world.
Mk 14:60-64

CLAIMS (JOHN)

John 1:51 He is the true Israelite (God's elect).

John 3:13 He came from heaven.

John 4:14 He gives living water.

John 4:26 He is the Messiah.

John 5:17-18 God is his Father / he is equal with God.

John 5:27 He is the eschatological Judge (Dan 7:13-14).

John 5:36-37 The Father testifies concerning him.

John 5:39 Scripture testifies concerning him.

CLAIMS (JOHN)

John 6:27 He gives food to eternal life.
 John 6:35 He is the bread of life.

And it will happen at that time that the treasury of manna will come down again from on high, and they will eat of it in those years because these are they who will have arrived at the consummation of time.

2 Baruch 29.8 (2nd Century, BC)

As the former redeemer cause a manna to descend, as it is stated, *Behold I will cause to rain bread from heaven for you* (Ex. 16:4), so will the latter Redeemer cause manna to descend, as it is stated. *May he be as a rich cornfield in the land* (Ps. 72:16).

Ecclesiastes Rabbah 1.9

CLAIMS (JOHN)

John 6:27 He gives food to eternal life.
 John 6:35 He is the bread of life.
 John 6:44 He will raise the dead.
 John 7:37-38 He gives living water.
 John 8:12 He is the light of the world.
 John 8:42 He came from God / the Father sent him.
 John 8:54 The Father glorifies him.
 John 8:58 He is Yahweh. *

CLAIMS (JOHN)

- John 10:7-9 He is gate / door.
- John 10:11-14 He is the good shepherd.
- John 10:18 He has the authority to lay down his life and take it up again.
- John 10:28 He gives eternal life
- John 10:30 He is one with the Father.
- John 11:25-26 He is the resurrection and the life.
- John 13:13 He is Teacher and Lord.

CLAIMS (JOHN)

- John 14:6 He is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him
- John 14:9 He is the revelation of the Father.
- John 15:1 He is the true vine (Isaiah 5:1-7).
- John 18:37 He is a King.

I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. 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. He did not intend to.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
