



# Lesson 15

## Jesus: A MAN with a Divine Nature

### INTRODUCTION

BY HIS DIVINE POWER, GOD HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIVING A GODLY LIFE. WE HAVE RECEIVED ALL OF THIS BY COMING TO KNOW HIM, THE ONE WHO CALLED US TO HIMSELF BY MEANS OF HIS MARVELOUS GLORY AND EXCELLENCE. AND, BECAUSE OF HIS GLORY AND EXCELLENCE, HE HAS GIVEN US GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES. THESE ARE THE PROMISES THAT ENABLE YOU TO SHARE HIS DIVINE NATURE AND ESCAPE THE WORLD'S CORRUPTION CAUSED BY HUMAN DESIRES. 2 PETER 1:3-4 (NLT)

### WHAT ARE THESE *PROMISES* WITH REGARD TO HIS DIVINE NATURE?

A new life in Christ.

Holy Spirit will empower you to do greater things than Jesus did. (John 14:12)

Holy Spirit will live within you. Your body will be His temple. (John 14:23)

Holy Spirit will work through you, so that your ministries will be His own acts.

### WHAT DOES THE DIVINE NATURE OF JESUS LOOK LIKE?

Definition of nature: one's instincts or the inherent tendencies directing one's conduct. In other words, your character, personalities, and actions.

Definition of divine: of, like, or proceeding directly from God.

God's divine nature is revealed not only in His Word, but also through His son, Jesus Christ.

So, let's examine the life of Jesus in order that we may understand His divine nature, and all that is available for our own nature.

## CHARACTER, PERSONALITY, AND ACTIONS OF JESUS

"The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching." John Wooden

### CHARACTER OF JESUS:

	A rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
The faithful and true witness (Rev. 1:5, 3:14)	Truth (John 1:14, 14:6)
A friend of sinners, yet without sin (2 Cor. 5:21)	The Word of life (1 John 1:1)
Good (Matt. 19:16-17, John 7:12)	Non-violent and with no deceit (Isa. 53:9)
Holy (Acts 4:30)	One who does nothing wrong (Luke 23:41)
A just man (Matt. 27:19 & 24, Acts 3:14, 7:52, 22:14)	Seeks only the Father's will, not His own (John 5:30)
Wise (1 Cor. 1:24 & 30, Proverbs 8:12)	One who has the fullness of God living in Him (Col. 1:19)

### PERSONALITY OF JESUS (His abilities, interests, and attitudes):

He was brought up with God, constantly delighting Him and rejoicing in His presence. (Proverbs 8:22-30)	He loved as the Father loved Him. (John 15:9)
He was happy with the creation of earth and rejoiced with humanity. (Proverbs 8:31)	He looked always in dependence upon the Father and perfectly carried out the Father's commands. (John 17:1-8)
Even though He was the creator of the world (John 1:3), He humbled himself and took the form of a servant. (Phil. 2:5-7)	He loves justice and hates evil. (Psalm 45:7)
Although He is before all things (Col. 1:17), He chose to come to earth to be made a little lower than the angels, and to suffer and taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9)	He was angered by hypocrisy. (Mark 3:5)
	He never stayed where He was not welcome. (Luke 8:37)
	He humbly accepted the support of His friends. (Luke 8:3)

## ACTIONS OF JESUS

### AS TEACHER:

He was informal, allowing questions until all was made clear. (Matt. 13:11 & 51, Mark 8:11 & 12:34, Luke 2:46 & 23:9)

He spoke with authority. (Matt. 7:29)

He was always a good example. (Luke 18:18-19)

### AS PREACHER:

His preaching always consisted of the gospel of the Kingdom. (Matt. 9:35)

He called all people to repent, believe, and be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

### AS HEALER

His healing was characterized by deep compassion. (Matt. 9:23-26, Luke 4:16-21, John 10:10, Acts 10:38)

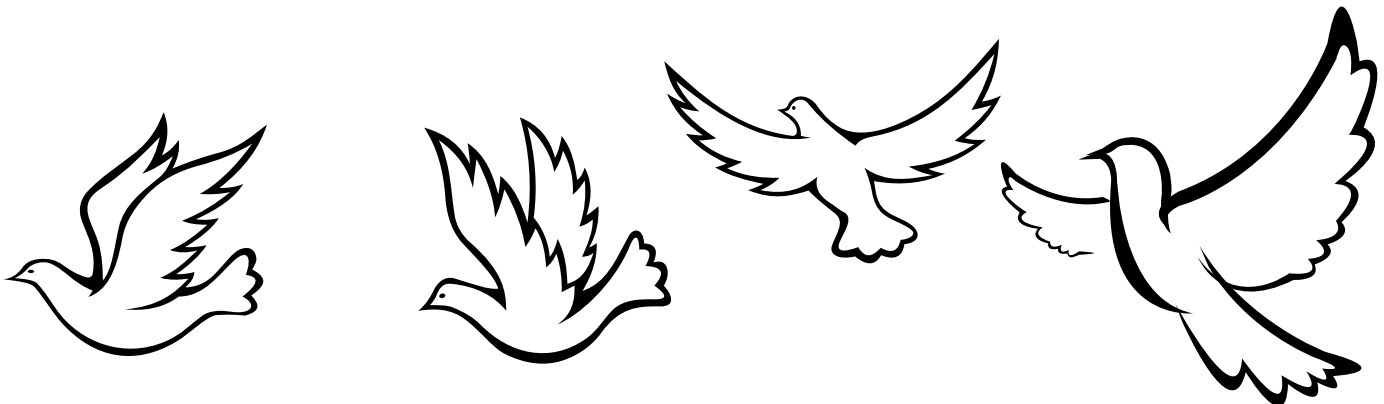
He broke the ungodly customs of His day, but never broke the laws originally given by God the Father. (Matt. 12:1-8)

He had power over the elements. (Mark 4:41)

He had power over Satan. (Matt. 8:16)

He performed many miracles, such as feeding the 5,000. (Mark 6:30-44)

He did all the work the Father gave Him to do while on earth. (John 5:43 & 10:25)



## JESUS LIVED ON EARTH AS A MAN

God the Father sent His son to earth, not as God, but instead fully human. He did this in order to show us that we can access our own Spirit-filled life, full of love, power, and authority...just as Jesus, the man did.

The case is clearly made throughout the Old and New Testaments that Jesus was born a man, not a deity.

IN THE BEGINNING THE WORD ALREADY EXISTED. THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE EXISTED IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. JOHN 1:1-2 (NLT) ...SO THE WORD BECAME **HUMAN** AND MADE HIS HOME AMONG US. HE WAS FULL OF UNFAILING LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS. AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, THE GLORY OF THE FATHER'S ONE AND ONLY SON. JOHN 1:14 (NLT)

AND I WILL CAUSE HOSTILITY BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN YOUR OFFSPRING AND **HER OFFSPRING**. HE WILL STRIKE YOUR HEAD, AND YOU WILL STRIKE HIS HEEL. GENESIS 3:15 (NLT)

YOU MUST HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE THAT CHRIST JESUS HAD. THOUGH HE WAS GOD, HE DID NOT THINK OF EQUALITY WITH GOD AS SOMETHING TO CLING TO. INSTEAD, HE GAVE UP HIS DIVINE PRIVILEGES; HE TOOK THE HUMBLE POSITION OF A SLAVE AND **WAS BORN AS A HUMAN BEING**. WHEN HE APPEARED IN HUMAN FORM, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD AND DIED A CRIMINAL'S DEATH ON A CROSS. PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8 (NLT)

### JESUS IS REFERRED TO AS A MAN, OR SON OF MAN, THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURES.

AND I MYSELF DID NOT KNOW HIM, BUT THE ONE WHO SENT ME TO BAPTIZE WITH WATER TOLD ME, "THE **MAN** ON WHOM YOU SEE THE SPIRIT COME DOWN AND REMAIN IS THE ONE WHO WILL BAPTIZE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. I HAVE SEEN AND I TESTIFY THAT THIS IS GOD'S CHOSEN ONE." JOHN 1:33-34 (NIV)

FOR THERE IS ONE GOD AND ONE MEDIATOR WHO CAN RECONCILE GOD AND HUMANITY- THE **MAN** CHRIST JESUS. 1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (NLT)

BUT STEPHEN, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GAZED STEADILY INTO HEAVEN AND SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, AND HE SAW JESUS STANDING IN THE PLACE OF HONOR AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND. AND HE TOLD THEM, "LOOK, I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED AND THE **SON OF MAN** STANDING IN THE PLACE OF HONOR AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND!" ACTS 7:55-56 (NLT)

"...HE ISN'T HERE! HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! REMEMBER WHAT HE TOLD YOU BACK IN GALILEE, THAT THE **SON OF MAN** MUST BE BETRAYED INTO THE HANDS OF SINFUL MEN AND BE CRUCIFIED, AND THAT HE WOULD RISE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY." LUKE 24:6-7 (NLT)

## JESUS REFERS TO HIMSELF AS THE SON OF MAN THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURES.

JESUS SAID, "I AM. AND YOU WILL SEE **THE SON OF MAN** SEATED IN THE PLACE OF POWER AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND AND COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

MARK 14:62 (NLT)

## WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH THE FACT THAT JESUS WAS A HUMAN BEING DURING HIS EARTHLY EXISTENCE? THE ANSWER TO THIS IS TWO-FOLD:

1. In order to perfectly fulfill the law, and thereby qualify as man's ultimate sacrifice for sin.

BECAUSE GOD'S CHILDREN ARE HUMAN BEINGS-MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD- THE SON ALSO BECAME FLESH AND BLOOD. FOR ONLY AS A HUMAN BEING COULD HE DIE, AND ONLY BY DYING COULD HE BREAK THE POWER OF THE DEVIL, WHO HAD THE POWER OF DEATH. HEBREWS 2:14 (NLT)

2. To set an example for us to believe in and follow. **You have to "get it" that Jesus was a man, just like us. When you come into agreement with that fact, you will realize that you too can attain a powerful, Spirit-filled life, using Jesus as the benchmark.**

## CONCLUSION

Jesus had a human nature just like our own, but was able to walk perfectly due to the empowering Holy Spirit. Because we are redeemed and empowered by Holy Spirit, we too can walk this walk. The Word of God calls us to walk, and God never calls us to anything we would be unable to do without the empowering of Holy Spirit.

NOW MAY THE GOD OF PEACE MAKE YOU HOLY IN EVERY WAY, AND MAY YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY BE KEPT BLAMELESS UNTIL OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST COMES AGAIN. GOD WILL MAKE THIS HAPPEN, FOR HE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24 (NLT)

*"Everything that Jesus did while He walked on the earth, He did out of His spirit-filled humanity, and not out of His deity." (Steve Meeks)*