

Sermon Outline	Delivered: North Side, 3/15/09	series: Crossroads
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The Messiah Tension

Big Idea

Jesus is the only way.

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-20, 21-23

Outline

INTRODUCTION

- Yuzo - "Who is Jesus?"
- Recap from last two weeks - three religions start from Abraham and come at a crossroads at the person of Jesus

• CROSSROADS CHART

• Matthew 16:13-20

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For ^(J) flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, ^(K) but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, ^(L) you are Peter, and ^(M) on this rock ^(a) I will build my church, and ^(N) the gates of ^(O) hell ^(b) shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you ^(P) the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and ^(Q) whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed ^(c) in heaven." 20 ^(R) Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. - Matthew 16:13-20

- The most important question today is: Who do you say that Jesus is?

OBJECTIONS

• #1: THE EXCLUSIVITY OBJECTION - Jesus is a way, but he is not the only way.

- Jesus is the way for me.
- Works versus cross - these religions cannot be going the same way; and if you can get to heaven based upon good works, then Jesus dying on the cross was a needless act
- Yohei - all religions heading in the same place; Jesus is the greatest teacher ever to walk the earth; what about John 14:6; "Jesus only meant part of that verse"

• #2: THE IDENTITY OBJECTION - Jesus was good, but he wasn't God.

- Did Jesus fulfill prophecies?
 - Prophecies of Jesus
 - "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." -Zech. 12:10

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- "...a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." -Ps. 22:16-18
- "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." -Is. 7:14
- "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed...the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." -Is. 53:5
- "A voice on one calling: in the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God." - Is. 40:3
- "And the LORD said to me, 'Throw it to the potter' - the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.'" -Zech. 11:13
- "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." -Ps. 41:9
- "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." -Mic. 5:2
- **Bethlehem Slide** -1 in 300,000 chance that Jesus could be born in Bethlehem
- **Fulfilling 8 Prophecies** - 1 in one hundred million billion chance that Jesus could fulfill only 8 of the Messianic prophecies; that's the chance that a blindfolded person could pick out a marked silver dollar if the State of Texas was stacked of silver dollars two feet deep - and that's only 8; he fulfilled hundreds
- Did Jesus claim to God?
 - *John 10:30-33 - I and the Father are one."* 31^(AY) *The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but^(AZ) for blasphemy, because you, being a man,^(BA) make yourself God."*
 - *- Mark 2:5-12 - 5And when Jesus^(D) saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son,^(E) your sins are forgiven." 6Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7"Why does this man speak like that?^(F) He is blaspheming!^(G) Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8And immediately Jesus,^(H) perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? 10But that you may know that^(I) the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— 11"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." 12And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and^(J) glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"*
 - *Luke 23:3 - And Pilate asked him,^(G) "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, ^(H) "You have said so." -Luke 23:3*
 - *John 8:56-59 - Your father Abraham^(CW) rejoiced^(CX) that he would see my day.^(CY) He saw it and was glad." 57So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"^(d) 58Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was,^(CZ) I am." 59So^(DA) they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. -John 8:56-59*

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- Liar, Lunatic, Lord
- **The Oprah Test**
- **#3: THE VALIDITY OBJECTION - Jesus lived and died, but he didn't come back to life.**
 - Was he really killed?
 - **Hematidrosis** - high level of psychological stress causes the release of chemicals that break down the capillaries in the sweat glands
 - **Hypovolemic shock** - 39 lashes of whip, metal, and bone would bring the person to the point of death; the shoulders down to the legs would be so shredded, the skeletal muscles would be cut, and veins be laid bare; hypovolemic shock means the person is suffering the effects of losing a large amount of blood; effects - heart races to pump blood that isn't there, blood pressure drops causing fainting or collapsing, kidneys stop producing urine, the person becomes very thirsty - that's why Simon was ordered to carry the cross by a Roman soldier and Jesus asked for something to drink and got vinegar
 - **Median nerve** - when they crucified, they crushed the median nerve through the wrists; your funny bone sends a feeling through the ulna nerve; imagine a pair of pliers squeezing and crushing that nerve
 - **Excruciating** - out of the cross; a word had to be created to explain how bad it was
 - **Asphyxiation** - hanging on the cross, one's muscles and diaphragm put the chest into an inhaled position; to exhale, you had to push up on the feet to get a breath of air
 - **Respiratory acidosis** - when breathing gets labored, the CO2 in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid, causing the acidity of the blood to increase causing an irregular heartbeat; that is why Jesus could utter the words, into thy hands I commit my spirit, because he could feel the **cardiac arrest** coming on
 - **Pericardial effusion** - due to the heart failure, resulting in the collection of fluid in the membrane around the heart; this is why when the soldier pierced Jesus with a spear, you could see blood and water
 - **Break legs** - normally lead to asphyxiation quicker
 - Did he come back to life?
 - Three days
 - Guarded entrance
 - Women giving the testimony
 - Did the disciples think he came back to life?
 - All of the disciples were martyred independently; they couldn't have been crazy, and they couldn't die for a lie
 - If Jesus never died, but swooned, would he be in the kind of shape to inspire a bunch of fearful disciples to go and tell the world that this crippled, beaten man in need of medical attention had the power to conquer death?

CONCLUSION

- We are at a crossroads with the person of Jesus. Which way will we go?
- Ben - Lander, Catholic, I did it, I'm making my own decision to follow Jesus