



The REAL JESUS

WEEK 2 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

1 John 2:22-23 Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son.
²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.

John 13:13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am.

John 8:42-47 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn’t come on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why don’t you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Who among you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷ The one who is from God listens to God’s words. This is why you don’t listen, because you are not from God.”

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

John 8:48-59 The Jews responded to him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you’re a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹ “I do not have a demon,” Jesus answered. “On the contrary, I honor my Father and you dishonor me....” ⁵² Then the Jews said, “Now we know you have a demon. Abraham died and so did the prophets. You say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’” ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham who died? And the prophets died. Who do you claim to be?” ⁵⁴ “If I glorify myself,” Jesus answered, “my glory is nothing. My Father—about whom you say, ‘He is our God’—he is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.”

⁵⁷ The Jews replied, “You aren’t fifty years old yet, and you’ve seen Abraham?”

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple.

John 1:1-4, 14-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side—he has revealed him.

Other Scriptures Referenced: John 3:2; John 1:38; John 20:26; Matthew 22:15-17; Matthew 22:23-24; Matthew 12:38; Mark 14:60-61; John 6:35; John 8:12; John 10:7; John 10:11; John 11:25; John 14:6; John 15:1; Exodus 3:14

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday’s sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. The sermon argued that believing Jesus was merely a good teacher is not enough for Christianity. Why is Jesus’ divinity essential to the gospel, and what’s at stake if we get His identity wrong?
3. The religious leaders acknowledged Jesus as a teacher but rejected Him as God because accepting His authority would have changed everything in their lives. What are ways people today reshape Jesus into a version that is more comfortable or acceptable to them?
4. The sermon contrasted following Jesus as a respected teacher versus submitting to Him as Lord and King. What practical differences should there be in our daily decisions, priorities, relationships, and obedience if Jesus truly is God?
5. Jesus repeatedly identified Himself using titles like “the Bread of Life,” “the Good Shepherd,” and “the Resurrection and the Life,” culminating in His declaration, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” Which of these statements stands out to you the most, and how does it deepen your understanding of who Jesus is?
6. The sermon concluded that every person ultimately faces two choices: receive Jesus as God and Lord or settle for a lesser version of Him. As you examine your own life, is there any area where you’ve been treating Jesus more like an advisor than the Lord of your life? What would wholehearted surrender look like this week?