

Why People Disagree About Jesus

Transformed by the Truth

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

The Claim:

- Jesus is our Savior (*Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11*)
- Jesus is the Christ (*Matthew 1:1, 16; 2:2-3; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:32-33; 2:11, 26; John 1:17*)
- Jesus is the Lord (*Matthew 1:23; Luke 2:11; John 1:1, 3-4, 10*)

The Evidence:

- Fulfilled prophecies (*Matthew 1:22-23; 2:5-6, 15, 17-18; 3:3*)
- Convinced witnesses (*Matthew 1:24-25; 2:11, 16; Luke 1:38; 2:17, 28-32, 38*)
- Indisputable miracles

The Counter-evidence:

- Bogus fulfillments
- Stealth entrance (*Matthew 2:7, 40-52*)
- Unfulfilled expectations (*Matthew 3:7-15*)

1. Has your opinion of Jesus changed over time? If so, what made you see Him in a new light?
2. What are the practical implications of Luke 2:11? What difference does it make that Jesus is your Savior? The Christ? The Lord?
3. Read the prophecies about Jesus in Matthew 1:23; 2:6; 2:15 and 2:18. How would you reply to the charge that Matthew took these prophecies out of context and applied them to Jesus inaccurately?
4. What evidence might a believer find in the childhood of Jesus that He was the Son of God? Why might a skeptic think that He wasn't?
5. What are some ways that Jesus defied the expectations of Messiah-seekers? How has He turned out to be different than you expected Him to be?