



DATE	April 29, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	The Problem of Jesus
SERIES	Everyone has questions about God. They can be difficult and overwhelming and stir up doubts inside of us. Let's look for some answers as we investigate The Problem of God, because an informed faith is stronger than an assumed one.

Introduction: The problem of Jesus goes beyond an intellectual decision. It requires a choice that directs the course of your life.

1. What is your position on who Jesus Christ is? Share where those ideas come from? ie. Family, friends, church, Bible, modern books, cultural ideas, personal study?
2. Read John 1:1-5. English: *Word* = Greek: *Logos*
Pastor David said the Greek word *Logos* is used to personify God's will. In other words, it means Jesus is the personification of God. How do you think this concept is generally accepted in today's culture and why?

3. Pastor David said there are two options when you consider Jesus. Either he is the Christ or he's crazy.

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. You must make your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool 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." – C.S. Lewis

As a group, react to the above statements. Do you agree? Disagree? Have no opinion? Explain.

4. Pastor David said, historians debate the nature of Jesus, but not His existence. Do you agree? Disagree? Support your position.
5. Skeptics will claim that Jesus never said, *I am God*. But the deity of Jesus is confirmed numerous times in scripture. As a group, read the following passages and discuss your thoughts about them.
 - His Pre-existence & Claim to be Israel's God: *John 8:54-59; Exodus 3:13-14*
 - His equality with God: *John 10:29-31, John 5:17-18 (Different persons but same in essence and nature)*
 - Doesn't correct when called God: *John 5:17-23; 19:7-11*
 - Teaches to pray in His name *John 14:13-14*
 - Accepts worship: *John 20:28-29*
 - Claims OT titles: *John 10:14-15; Revelation 1:8; 22:12-13*

6. Pastor David said a second objection to Jesus is around the resurrection. He named four of them:

- Jesus didn't really die
- His body was stolen (*John 20:1-2*)
- They went to the wrong tomb
- The disciples borrowed the idea of resurrection

What are your thoughts about these objections? Do you consider any of them plausible? How do you support your position?

7. Read John 20:26-31 What do you think a life oriented around Jesus looks like?

Conclusion: The bottom line in today's lesson comes down to two questions:

Who do YOU say Jesus is?

How will YOU respond to it?