

STUDY 9

Jesus Lord of All

1. What evidence is there in this chapter to support the claim that Jesus was really fully human and also fully God?

Fully human: Jesus was sleeping in the boat. Jesus was tired after working hard

Fully God: Jesus rebuked the storm and it stopped. Jesus was recognised as God's Son by the demons.

Other places in the gospels provide other examples of His humanity. Jesus was sometimes thirsty and sometimes hungry. He enjoyed the friendship and support of other people. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept. On the cross He cried out, "***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!***"

Different areas of the gospel describe His many and varied works of power. When He restored the man's eye using clay and spittle there is an allusion (a hint) to the creation story.

2. If the deity of Jesus means that He can act with power over all creation, what does His humanity contribute?

Jesus' humanity means that He is really one of us and was able to fulfil the law on our behalf and die for our sins.

Jesus' humanity means that He can be our sympathetic high priest truly able to understand our trials and temptations and our needs.

3. Blaming others is a form of *manipulation* which is a wrong way to influence people. Other wrong ways to influence people are *intimidation* and *domination*. What is the difference between them and which one might present a particular temptation for leaders?

To manipulate a person is to control or influence them to do something against their will by the use of guilt or shame or the thought of losing face or loss of approval or some other negative consequence.

Intimidation is controlling people through the use of fear.

Domination is the misuse of power to control other people.

Leaders with authority and power might misuse these to dominate people. People in a subordinate position may be tempted to control someone in authority using manipulation or intimidation.

4. Jesus gave a different instruction to the man in the tombs from that which He gave back in chapter 1. What was the reason for this and what does it show we must bear in mind when following Jesus' commands?

In chapter 1, the location was Capernaum where premature fame would have been very damaging to Jesus. Popular acclaim would have accelerated the opposition from the Jewish establishment and prevented Him from announcing the good news to the Jewish nation.

Here, in chapter 5, the region of Gadara is more of a pagan area and the Jewish establishment - the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and teachers of the law - was not as strong. So, Jesus encouraged the man to be a spreader of the good news.

We must bear in mind to whom the commands were spoken. For example, Jesus told one particular man to sell all that he had, give to the poor and follow Him. He did not say this to everyone. Jesus' words after telling the *Parable of the Good Samaritan* were, "**Go and do likewise.**" So we need to consider the context when applying Bible instructions.

5. Sometimes we want to do things which on the face of it seem good but they are not necessarily God's will for us. How can we tell the difference? What tests can we apply?

Here are seven simple tests. Not all are relevant for all decisions, but the more important the decision the greater the need to consider all of them. It might be useful, if time permits, to ask members of the group when they have applied such tests and consider when doing so has prevented them from making mistakes.

1. Is it in line with the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament writers?
2. Do you have peace in your heart from the Holy Spirit that this is the right thing to do?
3. Will it please and bring glory to God?
4. Do other mature Christians agree and support?
5. Are the circumstances right?
6. Have you given time to reflect and pray or is this an impulsive idea?
7. Are you really willing to yield and lay this down if you are convinced it is not God's will?

6. God has given humankind freedom of choice. Is free will essential to being truly human?

Yes. Ask your group to consider whether a clock will tell its owner the time because it loves that person. A child asked by its parent to read the clock and tell them the time will (hopefully) do so out of loving obedience.