

- I. A Critical Question: Who is Jesus?
 - A. Jesus is human: the Son of David
 - B. Jesus is God: the Lord
 - C. Jesus is the Messiah: the Christ

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:15-16)

- D. Jesus is the ruler: the King

“The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.” (Psalm 110:2)

- E. Jesus is victorious: the Conqueror

“Where O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

- II. A Bad Example: The Religious Leaders
 - A. They were filled with pride
 - B. They were seeking earthly honor

“How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God.” (John 5:44)

- C. They were greedy for wealth
- D. They were hypocrites

“When you pray do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell the truth, they have received their reward in full.” (Matthew 6:5)

- III. A Good Example: The Poor Widow
 - A. The value of the gift is determined by the spirit in which it is given

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

- B. Giving that pleases God involves personal sacrifice

“I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” (2 Samuel 24:24)

- C. No gift is insignificant in the eyes of God

“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” (Deuteronomy 26:17)

- D. Giving is an act of worship
- E. Giving is an act of faith
- F. God will reward faithful giving