



Is Your Jesus Too Small?

December 3, 2023

In a lot of professing Christians' minds, Jesus is just a little bit bigger than Buddha, or Mohammed, or Confucius, or Gandhi. But Jesus is way bigger than all that!

In the Gospel of John, the question comes to Jesus on several occasions: "Who are You?" In Biblical days, names were primarily either descriptive of the parents' wishes or prophetic of the personality to be developed by one so named. So when Jesus answers the question, the name He gives is both descriptive and prophetic.

For context, let's look at the story of the burning bush:

Exodus 3:13-14 — "Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am Who I Am'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I Am has sent me to you.'"

In this passage, Moses is concerned that the people might ask a question. The question was not: "What is He called?" The question is more profound. It's as if they're asking, "What is He like?" and "What will He do?"

God gives them the answer. He is the God who "is." He is not just talking about existence. To the Hebrew, "to be" does not just mean to exist, but to be active; to express oneself in active being: "The God Who acts."

The people needed to be reassured that God would meet them in their time of need, proving His character and promises true. This constitutes what God promised Moses in Exodus 3:12, namely, that God would be present and working on Moses' behalf in the difficult task ahead. He was effectively saying that whatever the situation or need, God will "become" the solution to that need.

Yahweh is an ever-present solution.

Exodus 6:6-8 — "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 'And I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.'"

The phrase "I Am Yahweh" occurs three times in these three verses. God identifies Himself as the present deliverance and the one who would meet their needs, just as His name implies. Yahweh would show Himself to be an ever-present help in times of trouble. He is an ever-present solution. He is the solution now, and He will be the solution in the future.

John 8:25 — "And so they were saying to Him, 'Who are You?' Jesus said to them, 'What have I been saying to you from the beginning?'"

John 8:53 — "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?"

John 8:56 — "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

John 8:58 — "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I Am.'"

Jesus answers the question "Who are You?" with a name. And it's not just any name. It is THE name. Jesus is saying that He is God.

John 8:59 – “Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.”

Jesus is Emmanuel; God in the flesh. He is Yahweh and the ever-present solution to our every need.

John 8:24 – “I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I Am, you shall die in your sins.”

If we don't believe that He is the solution to our sin problem, then we will die in our sins because there is no other way out. He is an ever-present help in times of trouble.

John 6:16-21 – “Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. And it had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. And the sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. When therefore they had rowed about three or four miles, they beheld Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. But He said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’ They were willing therefore to receive Him into the boat; and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.”

Jesus answers the disciples' fear: “*It is I; do not be afraid.*” The solution to the problem is here.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes several statements known as the “I Am” statements:

- I Am the Bread of Life**—I am ever present to sustain you.
- I Am the Light of the World**—I am ever present to illuminate you.
- I Am the Door**—I am ever present to admit you.
- I Am the Good Shepherd**—I am ever present to care for you.
- I Am the Life**—I am ever present to give you life.
- I Am the Way**—I am ever present to guide you.
- I Am the Vine**—I am ever present to make you truly productive.

He is the ever-present solution to all our needs and desires. Everything that we need, everything that we desire, and everything that we hope for flows out of Jesus. He is ever present to sustain us, illuminate us, admit us, care for us, give us life, guide us, and make us productive.

Jesus doesn't just have the answer, He *is* the answer.
He doesn't just have the solution, He *is* the solution.
All we long for is not with Jesus, it is *in* Jesus.

So, we draw near to Jesus just because of Who He is, and all we truly need and long for in our lives is released to us *from* Him because it is *in* Him.

Jesus is big enough to work out everything for you in the end. Whatever you may be going through, Jesus is bigger than that! He can hold the entire universe in the palm of His hand. He created everything by a word from His mouth. With one word from Him, storms ceased, winds died down, fish were multiplied, the lame leaped for joy, the blind opened their eyes and saw, and demons and death ran for their lives. When Jesus went to the cross, the entire universe held its breath, time stopped, history was suspended, and He reconciled the entire created order to Himself through the shedding of His blood. When He went to His tomb, the grave could not hold Him, and after three days, He rose from the dead.

He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

That is how big Jesus is. He is more than big enough to handle your situation. Will you trust Him today?