

The Jesus Paradox

(Matthew 16:13-16)

- Introduction:
1. Who do you think Jesus is?
 2. A paradox is something that seems contradictory.
 3. That being the case, Jesus is a paradox.
 4. In this lesson, I want us to examine a few of those paradoxical statements.

I. Jesus Didn't Come to Judge, But to Save

- A. (John 3:17; 12:47; Luke 9:56).
- B. We all recognize that Jesus is a Savior.
- C. However, some have abused this truth, saying that all will be saved.
 1. "Love Wins" – Rob Bell.
 2. (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- D. Don't stop reading.
 1. God appointed Jesus to Judge (Acts 17:30-31).
 2. Jesus will sit on the throne as judge (Matthew 25:31-46).
 3. The Father committed all judgment to his Son (John 5:22-23).

II. Jesus Didn't Come to Cause Division, But to Bring Peace

- A. (Isaiah 9:6).
- B. Jesus valued unity (John 17:20-21).
- C. But don't stop reading.
 1. Jesus did not come to bring peace (Matthew 10:34-37).
 2. The peace that Jesus brings is with God and his followers, not the world, which may include our families.

III. Jesus Didn't Come to Destroy the Law, But to Fulfill It

- A. (Mathew 5:17).
- B. Some have taken this to contend that we should still observe the Sabbath.
- C. But don't stop reading...but to fulfill.
- D. "Fulfill" means to bring to completion.
- E. Jesus didn't "destroy" the law, but he abolished it, having fulfilled it (Ephesians 2:15).

- Conclusion:
1. The thing about paradoxes is that while they may seem to be contradictory, they aren't.
 2. Resolution exists when one sees the larger picture.
 3. We need more than a "little dab" of Jesus if we want to understand him and obey him.