

# Week 6

# Who Do You Say That I Am?

Reading: MT 5:1-12 (All Saints Solemnity)



# Philippians 2

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,....

Paul explains Christ’s “mind” or attitude or motivation....

## Phil. 2 cont.

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

# The Formula of Exchange:

- Philippians 2 gives us some of the motive behind God's coming in His Son Jesus.
- God condescended and "clothed" himself in humanity
- Why?
- God became human, so that humanity could become participants in God's life.
- God entered into History, met us, spent time with us, and as both God and man healed the relationship between God and man that mankind owed, but that only God could accomplish.

# How is this shown us?

- Some people read the Gospels and say, “Jesus never came out and just said who and what He was doing.”
- Jesus said the same thing to him. Who are you? Why not just come out and tell us? Even Pilate said this to him.
- How does He answer?
- Read Luke 7: 18-23. Jesus does not just announce it, He REVEALS himself.
- He authenticates Himself.

# How Jesus Revealed His Divinity Indirectly

## 1

Signs and Wonders: miracles that pointed to His authority and mission from the Father.

2

He taught authoritatively: impact he  
had on his hearers.

3

Old Testament referencing:

ex. titles He appropriated and actions he chose: such as choosing 12 disciples and appointing a steward (Peter in Mt 16).

4

He fulfilled the sacrificial system: used Jewish feasts and imbued them with new meaning, fulfilling their old purpose but adding a new.

5

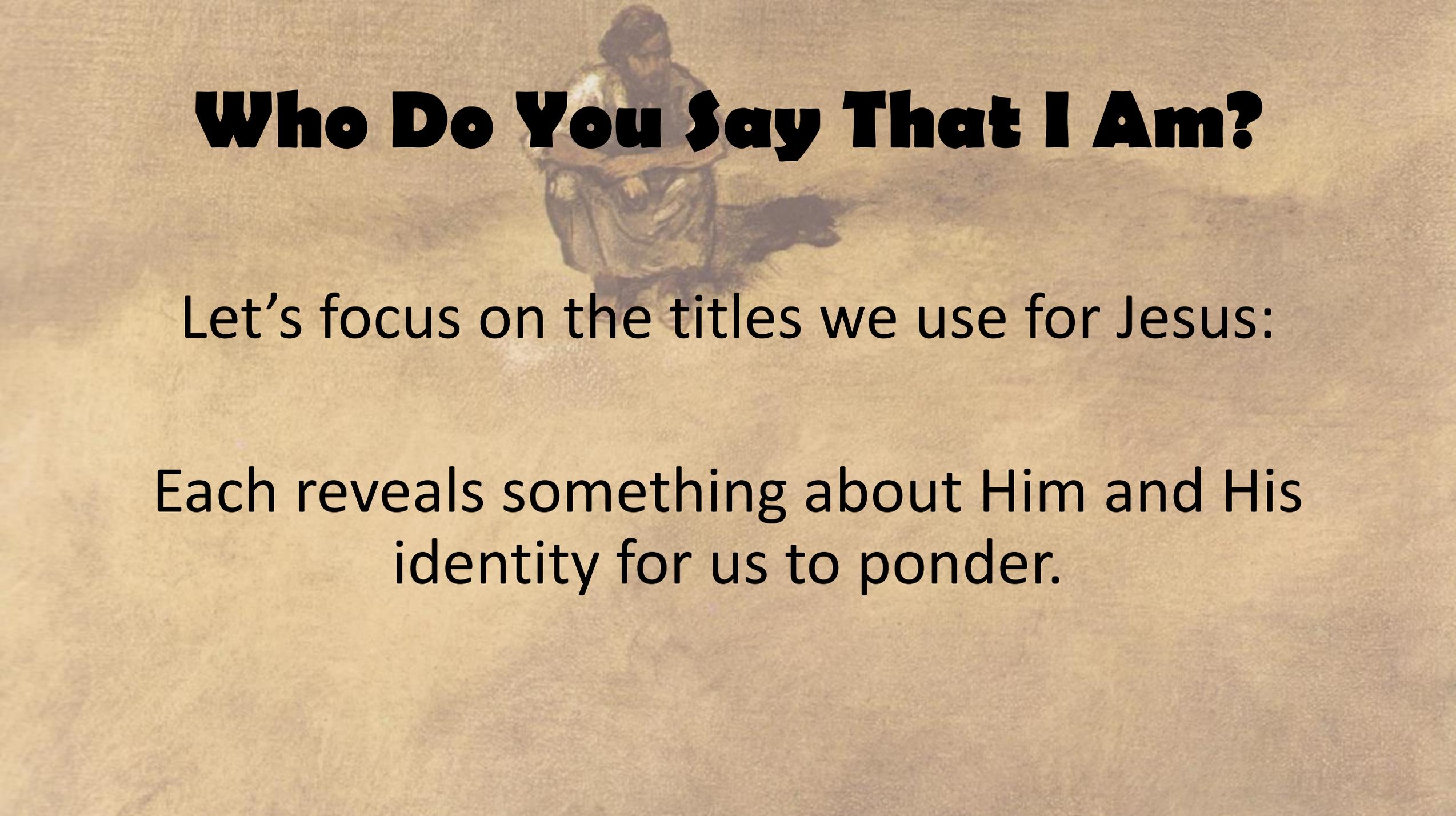
Fulfillment of prophecy:

His life was foretold and He acted in a prophetic way,

but he did more than that- Jesus was not just a prophet, but revealed himself to be the SOURCE of prophecy itself.

6

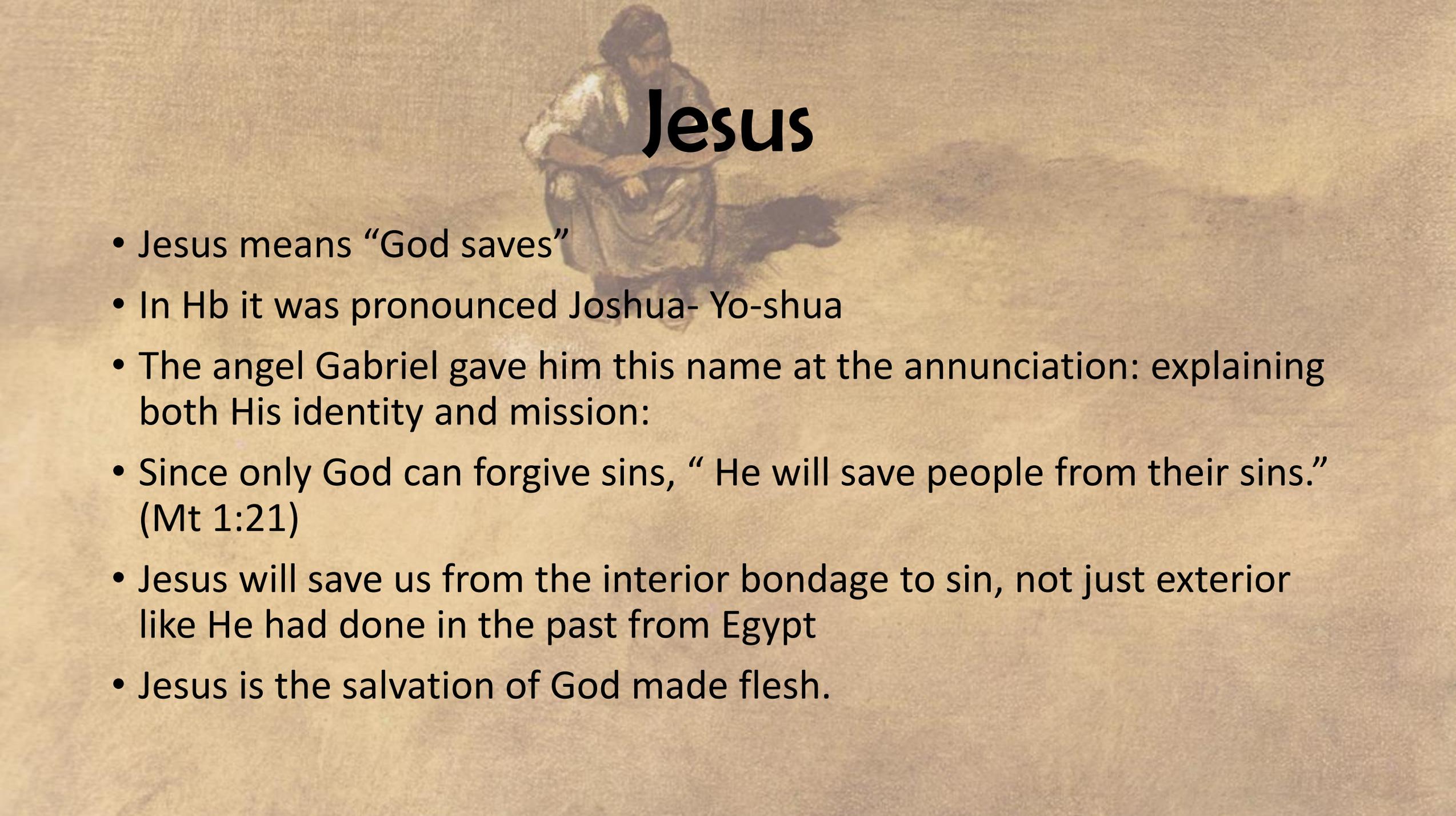
Rising from the Dead:  
the ultimate sign of His identity and  
God's acceptance of His gift of love  
on the Cross.



# **Who Do You Say That I Am?**

Let's focus on the titles we use for Jesus:

Each reveals something about Him and His  
identity for us to ponder.



# Jesus

- Jesus means “God saves”
- In Hb it was pronounced Joshua- Yo-shua
- The angel Gabriel gave him this name at the annunciation: explaining both His identity and mission:
- Since only God can forgive sins, “ He will save people from their sins.” (Mt 1:21)
- Jesus will save us from the interior bondage to sin, not just exterior like He had done in the past from Egypt
- Jesus is the salvation of God made flesh.



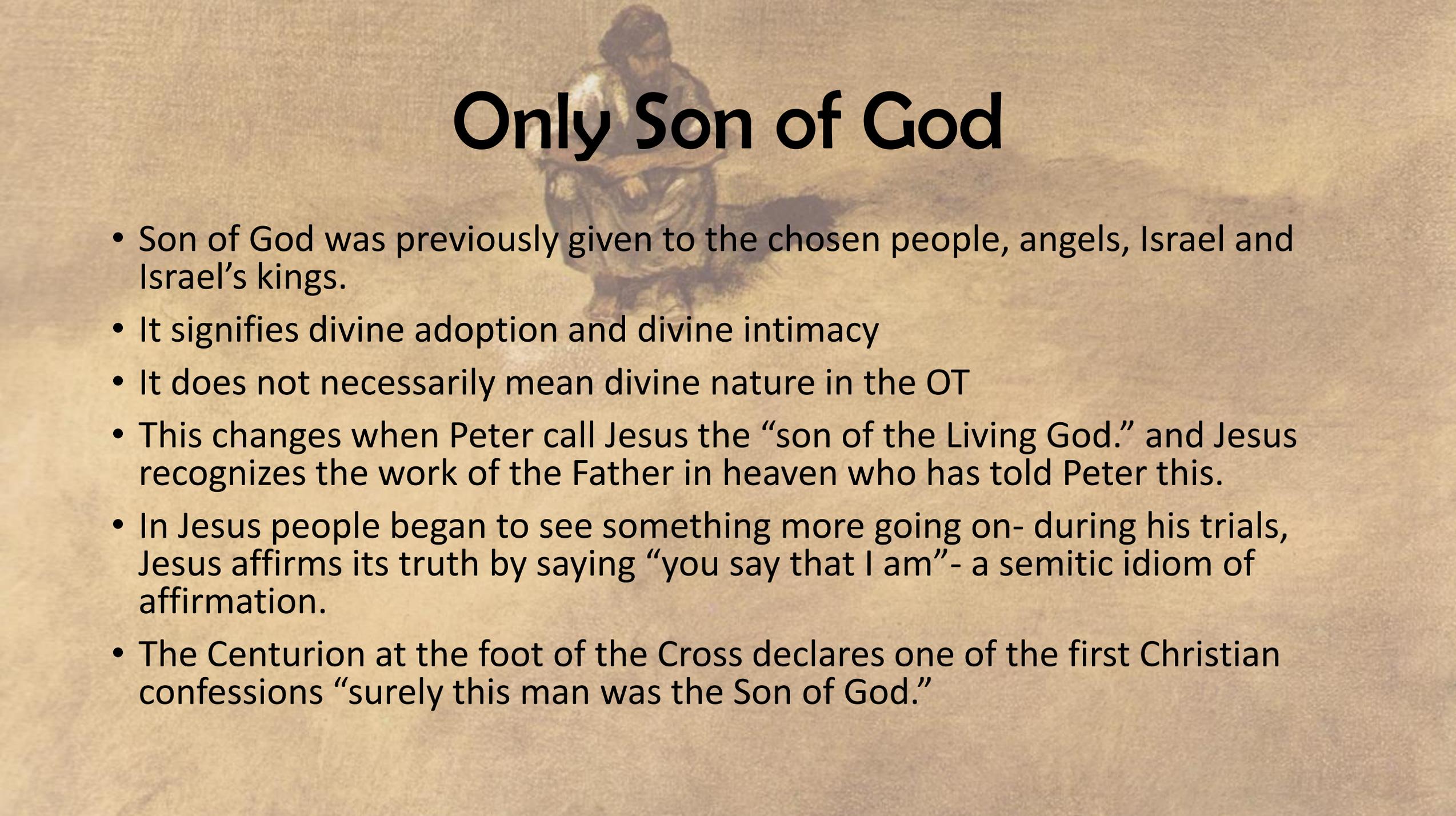
# Christ

- Christ is the Gr translation of the Hb word messiah which means “the anointed one”
- It is a title given to Jesus because He alone fulfilled the mission that comes from being anointed
- Anointing signified a special “setting apart” for God’s work and was done to kings and prophets.
- This anointing was manifested at Jesus’ baptism; where the three-fold office of priest, prophet and king, which had previously been given to all of Israel, is now fulfilled in this one person.



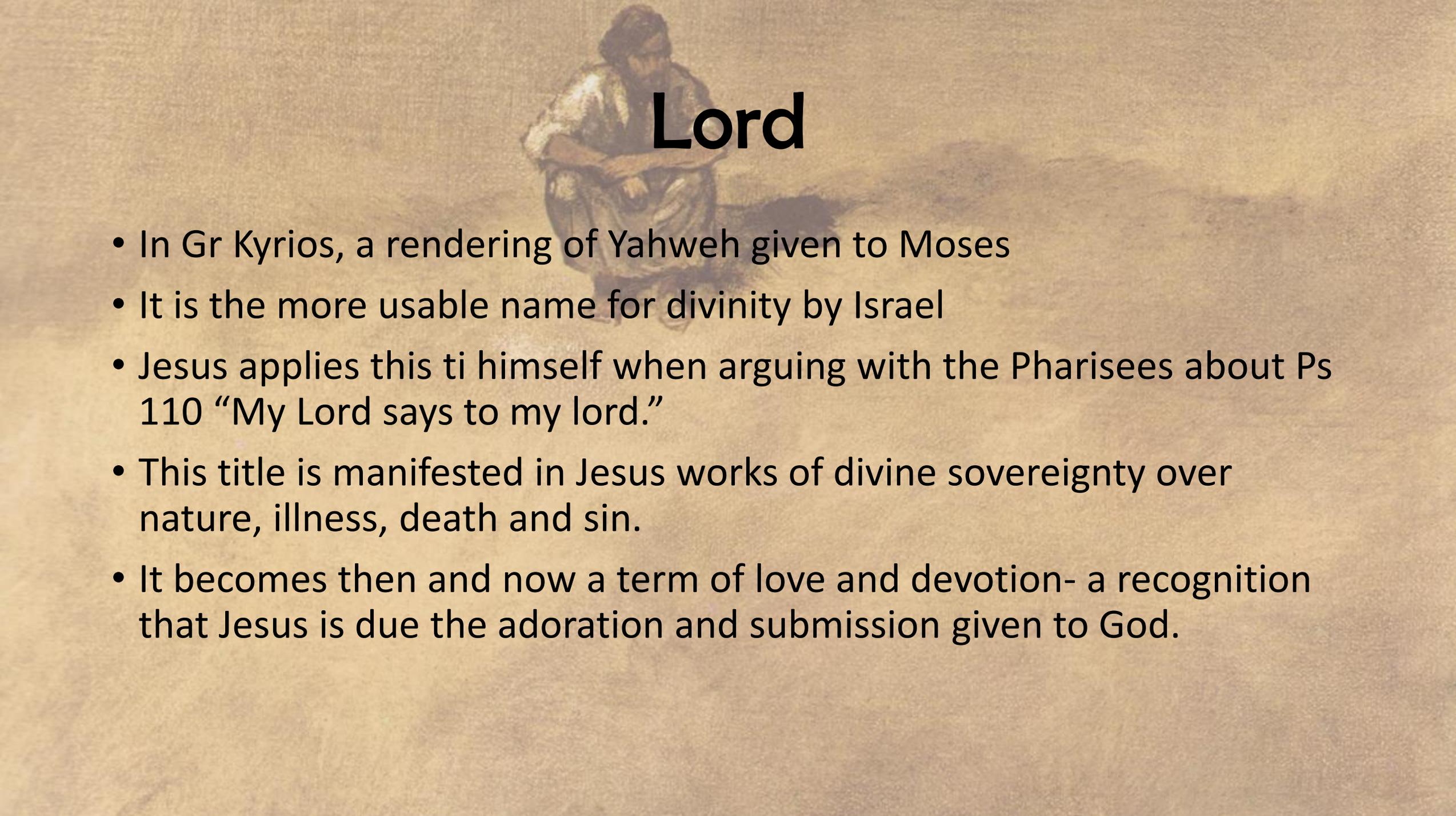
# Son of Man

- This is the only title Christ applies to himself in NT
- Though vague to us, it hints at his divine origin and the fulfillment of God's ultimate plan of salvation
- OT phrase originating in Daniel 7:
  - A visionary figure on clouds (meaning judgement)
  - He is an envoy of God presented eventually to the Ancient of Days
  - And to Him was given dominion and glory and kingdom of all nations
  - This Son of Man heralds a kingdom that will last eternally
- Jesus applies it as one of judgement- as if His presence forces us to make a choice- a very important choice.



# Only Son of God

- Son of God was previously given to the chosen people, angels, Israel and Israel's kings.
- It signifies divine adoption and divine intimacy
- It does not necessarily mean divine nature in the OT
- This changes when Peter call Jesus the "son of the Living God." and Jesus recognizes the work of the Father in heaven who has told Peter this.
- In Jesus people began to see something more going on- during his trials, Jesus affirms its truth by saying "you say that I am"- a semitic idiom of affirmation.
- The Centurion at the foot of the Cross declares one of the first Christian confessions "surely this man was the Son of God."



# Lord

- In Gr Kyrios, a rendering of Yahweh given to Moses
- It is the more usable name for divinity by Israel
- Jesus applies this to himself when arguing with the Pharisees about Ps 110 “My Lord says to my lord.”
- This title is manifested in Jesus works of divine sovereignty over nature, illness, death and sin.
- It becomes then and now a term of love and devotion- a recognition that Jesus is due the adoration and submission given to God.

# End

## Discussion Questions

- 1 How has your view of who Jesus was changed over your life? How do you envision Him?
- 2 What events of Jesus life (that you have learned so far) spoken to you and tell you about Jesus?
- 3 How would you describe who Jesus was?
- 4 Why did Jesus slowly divulge his identity? Why not just show up as a clearly knowable messiah?
- 5 Why is following Jesus so challenging, both then and now?
- 6 What do you think Jesus thinks of you?

**Homework: Please read ch 5 (and symbolon)**  
• **Also read Gospel of Luke (whole thing)**