



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion
17 – The Son of Man

Announcements:

2/15 @6:30 -

*Women's
Bible Study*

2/16 @7:00 -

*Corporate
Prayer*

2/17 @6:30 -

Grace Group

2/20 @7:00 -

Sunday School

2/21 @6:30 -

Men's Group

ICE BREAKER: What is some title that you have (father, mother, child, employee etc) that means the most to you? Why?

READ: Matthew 8:19-20

As we noted on Sunday, the main focus of this passage is to show the overeager Scribe that there is a high cost to following Jesus. But one thing that we didn't look into is the particular way that Jesus refers to himself in this passage. He says "the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". A look at the usage of this phrase in Scripture (and in particular in Matthew) shows that this is the favorite way of Jesus to refer to himself (and interestingly enough ONLY Jesus uses it). WHEN using this title Jesus is referencing an obscure passage in Daniel (Daniel 7:13-14) where there is one "like a son of man" who is presented to God while being glorified and ruling, it is a messianic passage, but a difficult and vague one. Which

seems to be part of the point. As one commentator points out: "the title is ambiguous enough to sustain more than one meaning per passage" so that Jesus can "invest it with distinctive significance in various contexts". As we look at the different distinctive significances that Jesus gives, there are three main points. He uses it to describe his earthly mission, he uses it to show the weight of his rejection and suffering, and he uses it to point to his future glory. Since we will see this phrase no less than 20 times in Matthew it would be wise for us to have a firm grasp on these three uses.

The first is seen in times like our passage we have already read. Jesus uses the title of "the son of Man" to describe his ministry to and more importantly among mankind. In this way the title Son of Man paints a closeness while still telling us of the differentness of Jesus. This is because to truly be the Son of Man requires a very particular person. He must be a literal son of man to minister to men, but the one with this title, and therefore the one who fulfills this role, is inherently different. In many ways the identification of Jesus as the Son of Man in his ministry is one of our greatest comforts. It proclaims a closeness, a power and truth that all mean to us life and salvation.

DISCUSS: What particular comforts do we get from Jesus being "Son of Man" in his earthly ministry? (for examples see Matthew 8:20; 9:6; 12:8; 13:37)

READ: Matthew 17:12

Secondly Jesus uses the title Son of Man when describing his rejection and suffering. This usage is very profound for it echoes in general a thought that we see in John 1, namely that "he came to his own, and his own people did not receive him." In fact, John 1 is the best place to go to fully understand why Jesus being the Son of Man rejected is so important. Because though his own did not receive him, "for those who did receive him, who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God." Thus the Son of Man makes more sons of God, living in his glory and completed work.

- I. Intro: Where it comes from and the three uses of Jesus
- II. Jesus' Earthly Mission
- III. Jesus' rejection and suffering
- IV. Jesus' future glory