



Scripture nugget – A rose by any other name would smell as sweet

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My heavenly Father (Matthew 16:13-17).

Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. In His great desire to identify with the people, Jesus would often refer to Himself as “the Son of Man.” This title also appeared in Daniel 7:13-14 when Prophet Daniel saw in a vision dominion, glory and a kingdom given to “One like a son of man” and also in the book of Prophet Ezekiel who was also referred to as “son of man”. However, there are some subtle differences: the title referring to Christ “the Son of Man” has connotations of being the epitome of man, the unique one, whilst the title referring to Ezekiel “son of man”, infers one among many. When Jesus asked His disciples who they think He was, Simon Peter answered and scored full marks for this question. Indeed, Jesus Christ is not merely a prophet as some religions pronounce Him to be but the promised Messiah Who is also the only Begotten Son of the Most High God.

Only the Son of God has seen God the Father and has revealed Him (cf. Jn 1:18). The public life of Christ was fraught with hostility and danger. The claim of Christ to being Son of God was met with derision and anger on the part of the leading Jewish religious community who cannot discern the mission and true identity of Jesus Christ despite their religious knowledge, Christ’s profound teachings and His stupendous signs and miracles. On one hand, Christ had to be very careful with the hostile religious leaders who were set to destroy Him out of jealousy, and a different group of people who wanted to make Him their earthly, military king. It was a great balancing act as Jesus also had the duty to reveal God, the Father. He tells us many things about God the Father, the most important of which is: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (Jn 3:16).* When Jesus came to earth, He fulfilled hundreds of prophecies written about Him, the long-awaited Messiah. His Sonship of the Most High God was given many testimonies including: by God the Father at Christ’s Baptism (cf. Mt 3:17) and at Christ’s transfiguration (cf. Mt 17:5), by the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and resting on Jesus after His baptism (cf. Mt 3:16), by Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation (cf. Luke 1:32), by John the Baptist (cf. Jn 1:34), by the demon who called Jesus “the Holy One of God” (cf. Mk 1:24), and by His work of great miracles and wonders.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You call Yourself the Son of Man, strongly identifying Yourself with us. Nonetheless, You are the one and only Begotten Son of the Most High God, equal in power and glory to God the Father and to the Holy Spirit. Yet You willingly assumed lowly human flesh in order to save the world. You despise the shame of the Cross, cancel out the eternal debt of our sins by Your Precious Blood shed on the Cross and give us the right to be children of God and co-heirs to God’s Kingdom! I join with all creation to render You unceasing adoration, praise and thanksgiving for the wonder that You truly are! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.