

Pre-eminence of Jesus Christ

Luke 6:1–5 (NIV)

6:1–11pp—Mt 12:1–14; Mk 2:23–3:6

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³ Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Central Idea

Jesus Christ excels over all of creation and reigns supreme over everything in the created order.

I. The scope of Jesus Christ’s pre-eminence

A. Over all people

Johnee 17:2 (NIV) — 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

B. Over his enemies

1 Corinthians 15:25–26 (NIV) — 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

C. Over every power and authority

Colossians 2:15 (NIV) — 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

D. Over all traditions and institutions

Matthew 12:8 (NIV) — 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

E. Over all things

1 Corinthians 15:28 (NIV) — 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

II. The pre-eminence of Jesus Christ in relation to others

A. To other prophets

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NIV) — 1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

B. To the patriarchs

John 8:52–58 (NIV) — 52 At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. **53** Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” **54** Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. **55** Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. **56** Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” **57** “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen

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Abraham!” **58** “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

C. To Aaron and other high priests

Hebrews 8:1–6 (NIV) — **1** Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being. **3** Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. **4** If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. **5** They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” **6** But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

D. To angels

1 Peter 3:22 (NIV) — **22** who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

E. To other lords and kings

1 Timothy 6:15 (NIV) — **15** which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

III. The reasons for Jesus Christ’s pre-eminence

A. His divine origin

John 3:31 (NIV) — **31** The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

B. His equality with the Father

John 10:30 (NIV) — **30** I and the Father are one.”

C. His authority derives from the Father

John 5:22–27 (NIV) — **22** Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **23** that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. **24** “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. **25** Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the

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voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. **26** For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. **27** And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

D. He possesses the rights of the firstborn

Colossians 1:15–17 (NIV) — **15** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

E. He has a superior name

Philippians 2:9 (NIV) — **9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

F. He is the First and the Last

Revelation 1:17 (NIV) — **17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

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Invitation

Hear

Romans 10:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Believe

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

James 2:24 (ESV)

²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Repent

Acts 17:30 (ESV)

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

Acts 26:20 (ESV)

²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

Confess

Matthew 10:32–33 (ESV)

³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

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Be Baptized

Romans 6:3–4 (ESV)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1 Peter 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Remain Steadfast

Galatians 5:4 (ESV)

⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.