

## **Faith Matters # 10 – More Names of Jesus – April 30**

Last Sunday we discovered the meaning of four names: Emmanuel, Christ, Messiah, and Jesus. Like many names in the Bible, they are confessions of faith. Jesus was also called Redeemer, Rabbi, Son of God, Son of man, Lord, and my favourite name for him, Friend.

When you have a coupon to redeem, you can exchange it at no cost to yourself for something you want. Jesus is called Redeemer when we point out that at no cost to ourselves, Jesus was handed over at the Cross so that we may have what is extremely valuable, forgiveness of sin, and eternal life. He is our Redeemer.

A Rabbi in the Bible, and even today among Jews, is a highly respected and honoured teacher. Jesus criticized Rabbis who, as he said, “do not practice what they teach,” and “love to have the place of honour at banquets” (Matthew 23:2,6).

The Son of God is one of the three persons of the holy Trinity. He is equal in power and authority with the Father and the Holy Spirit. What a sacrifice it was for the Son of God to give up his power, to become a human body, suffer and die to redeem us from the power of death.

The names Redeemer, Rabbi, Son of God are easy to understand. A more difficult name is “Son of man”. It is used over 80 times in the Old Testament book of Ezekiel to refer to that prophet, and simply means a human being, a mortal. In fact, most modern translations of the Old Testament prefer “mortal” to son of man. When it is used in the New Testament as a name for Jesus, it emphasizes the fact that Jesus was not only God with us, but also a real human being, a mortal, able to die. Referring to himself, Jesus said, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” That name refers to Jesus 40 times in the Gospels.

“Lord” is used to identify any person of authority and power, either human or divine. The wonderful reality about Jesus is that he is not only known as “Lord,” but as “Friend” – the friend of sinners. He said, “I no longer call you servants, but friends.”

He is the one who gave his life to be our Redeemer, who is our best teacher (Rabbi), the divine Son of God, and at the same time the mortal Son of Man, our Lord, your Friend and mine.

(by Rev, Willard Pottinger – Erskine Presbyterian Church)