The Lofty Claims of Jesus: Receiving Worship

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**Foundational Scripture:** Matt. 4:8-10; 14:33

**Intro**:

* Jesus was very demonstrative in regard to a lot of aspects of His life and ministry. He wasn’t afraid to speak the truth even if He was the only one doing it. He often spoke messages that segregated Himself from His own people and family. He did things and said things that made others hate Him and ultimately kill Him. But tonight’s lesson, tonight’s lofty claim is not so much about what He said and what He did but it instead focuses on what others were doing about Him and what Jesus wasn’t doing about that.

**Jesus Received Worship as God:**

1. **Worship explicitly and exclusively belongs to God**
   1. The biblical narrative asserts that worship is an act only appropriate to be offered to God, the Creator and Sustainer of the world and its entities. He is to be worshiped because of His salvation and grace (Ex. 20:2-6; Deut. 6:13-15).
   2. Jesus Himself taught people on a number of occasions that worship belonged exclusively to God and He alone was to be revered an honored in a way that reflects love, commitment, sacrifice and suffering (Matt. 4:8-10; Lk. 4:6-8; Jn. 4:19-24).
   3. The idea of worship belonging specifically to God is further seen in examples where angels/prominent disciples rejected it and reproved the individual(s) who were seeking to offer the act of adoration (Acts 10:25-26; 14:11-15; Rev. 19:10).
2. **Jesus Received Worship as God**
   1. With all that having been said, there are three particular instances in the NT scriptures where Jesus is seen as accepting worship. Now, to be sure, this is not some inadequate friendly kind of gesture being show to Jesus. This is divine worship (Matt. 14:33; 28:9, 16-17; Jn. 9:35-38).
   2. Note than in each of these occasion, Jesus has previously performed a miracle or expressed Hs power in a way that strongly demands worship. What else is the appropriate response to the exemplification of divine power that proves Jesus is God Himself.
   3. One will note that unlike Paul, Peter and the angelic being, Jesus does not refuse worship and He does not correct those that seek to worship. This is not a blatant claim like the others He has made, yet this might be the most prominent of all the claims He has made.
   4. The bible assures that Christ has not only received worship as God but that He will continue to receive worship now and in an utterly complete fashion in the eternity to come (Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5:11-14).

**Sources:**

McDowell, J. *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1999.