Read John 1:14 & Matt 13:13-17

Introduction: In the previous study (084), we looked at Jesus as the Son of God. However, Jesus rarely referred to Himself as Son of God. His most frequent self-designation was *Son of Man*. This was a Hebrew and Aramaic way of way of saying a person of flesh and blood. Why did Jesus prefer to use the expression? (Look up *Son of Man* in a Commentary or Bible Dictionary if you do not know).

1. The humanity/divinity link

Although the expression refers to Jesus as a human being, it also has hints of His divinity. Read Daniel 7:13-14 and Acts7:56. Notice this 'Son of Man' comes from Heaven. Who do think this refers to? What do the following verses tell us about His heavenly origin and destination?

Matt 24:30; Matt 24:37; Matt 25:31; Matt 26:64; John 1:51; Rev 1:13.

2. Why Christ had to be a man. There are at least six reasons. You might be able to think of more:

(i) For God to communicate to men on their level. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. In what ways did God 'speak' to us through Jesus?

(ii) For men to understand God Read 1 Cor 2:16. What did David write about our inability to understand Him (Psalm 145:3)?

(iii) For us to relate to him on a human level. Read John 14:9. How can we become a true friend of Jesus (John 15:14).

(iv) To set an example for us to follow (Hebrews 4:15).

(v) A vicarious sacrifice for our sins (i.e. taking our place). Read Isaiah 59:16 and 1 Cor 15:21. Why couldn't a man of wholly earthly origin, or wholly from heaven, take our place?

(vi) As mankind's representative in Heaven (Hebrews 10:12).

To think about: If Jesus set us an example of how the human life should be lived, how well am I following that example?

To dig deeper: Using what Bible aids you have or can access, read about the expression 'Son of Man' as used in the Book of Daniel and as used by Jesus Himself in the Gospels.

1 Jesus almost certainly spoke in Aramaic, the common language of Jews at the time.