

# FOLLOW ME

*The Gospel of Matthew*

## WEEK 8 - THE SON OF MAN OVERVIEW

The final thread we will explore leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus is that of Jesus' conflict with the religious leaders and Israel. A growing theme of tension throughout the gospel, it now reaches a boiling point. Here we will see their growing plot to kill Jesus, their incredulity at his claim to be the "Son of Man" as he stands on trial before them, their mocking words at the cross, and the profound meaning of the tearing in two of the curtain in the temple. As we consider the sacrifice of Jesus for humanity, we will see that Israel's religious leaders profoundly missed the point of God's grace, revealed throughout the Hebrew Bible, and we will see just how much wider and deeper God's love for humanity really is than anything these leaders had imagined.

*The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus.  
"He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself!*

**Matthew 27:41-42**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is Jesus to you? Do any particular images of Jesus resonate with you?
2. Read [Matthew 16:13-16](#).
  - a. Who did the disciples say Jesus was at this point?
  - b. Who does Jesus say he is?
3. Who did the leading priests and elders think Jesus was? (See [Matthew 26:1-5](#) and [26:62-64](#).)
4. Why was Jesus mocked over his identity? (See [Matthew 26:67-68](#), [27:29-31](#), [27:35-44](#).)
5. Why did some of the disciples misunderstand who Jesus is? (See [Matthew 26:14-16](#), [Matthew 26:51-56](#), [Matthew 28:17](#).)
6. Read [Daniel 7:13-14](#).
  - a. What does Jesus mean by "Son of Man", as he refers to this passage?
  - b. Why do you think Jesus called himself *Son of Man* 30 times in Matthew?
7. How important is it to you to determine who Jesus is? What impact does Jesus' identity have on your life?