

Why did Jesus talk about Himself in third person?

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Have you ever wondered why Jesus frequently talked about Himself in third person? Jesus often referred to Himself at “the Son of Man,” which was a Messianic term used 78 times in the gospels. (Substitute the word “Messiah” whenever you read “Son of Man.”) By using the term “Son of Man” He could publicly teach what the Messiah would do and let the audience draw their own conclusions. Here are some examples:

Matt. 13:41 “The **Son of Man** will send forth **His** angels, and they will gather out of **His** kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness.”

Matt. 17:22-23 “The **Son of Man** is going to be delivered into the hands of men and they shall kill **Him**, and **He** will be raised on the third day.”

Matt. 19:28 “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the **Son of Man** will sit on **His** glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Matt. 20:18-19 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the **Son of Man** will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn **Him** to death, and will hand **Him** over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify **Him**, and on the third day **He** will be raised up.”

Matt. 25:31 “But when the **Son of Man** comes in **His** glory, and all the angels with **Him**, then **He** will sit on **His** glorious throne.”

Why didn't Jesus just say, “I will send forth **My** angels and they will gather out of **My** kingdom...”? Although He was clearly talking about Himself, He was deliberately taking the focus away from Himself. **He wanted to keep His identity as the Messiah a mystery that it could only be understood by direct revelation from the Father.**

In Matthew 16:13 He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They answered, “Some say John the Baptist and others Elijah; but others Jeremiah or one of the prophets” (16:14). Then He asked, “But who do you say that I am?” (16:15) Notice this time He didn't say, “Who do you say that the **Son of Man** is?”

Peter said, “You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God” (16:16). Jesus told him that His Father in heaven revealed that truth to him. He warned them to tell no one about His true identity (Mark 8:30).

Jesus taught in parables for this reason. He told His disciples, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, in order that while seeing they may see and not perceive, and while hearing they may hear and not understand” (Mark 4:11-12).

Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants” (Matt. 11:25). He says the Father will reveal the truth only to those who are humble—and hides truth from those who are arrogant and think they know all the answers.

The only way to know Him personally is through divine revelation. He said, “No one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (Matt. 11:27). To find out how to know God [click here](http://www.makinglifecount.net).

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