



he gave them shortly before his crucifixion. If Jesus had gone out and immediately said, "Look I'm Messiah! I'm the Christ!" Some people would immediately have said, "That's wonderful, let's get our shields and swords and things and drive the Romans out of our land! There would not have been many who said that before the Roman armies would have come and destroyed them. That happened to many who had claimed to be Messiah. Jesus could have protected himself, but it was not his will to do it that way.

Jesus could immediately have gone out and said, "I'm the Son of God." He did ~~not~~ not say that once in Mk. or in Lk. He could immediately have started making these tremendous claims. They would have either him as insane, or the ecclesiastical leaders of the Jews would have caused him to be arrested and put out. Instead he chose a method of gradually leading people into the truth. We find that it was not very long before he began to unite with the idea of son of man the idea of authority. He told them the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath. Now Ezekiel could not say that! Daniel couldn't say that!

But he said that. He made that claim. He was Lord of the Sabbath. He claimed the ability to forgive sins. As far as we know he only said that on one instance. But he was beginning to give the disciples an understanding ~~of~~ that he claimed a remarkable authority. Then before long he began saying things like, "The Son of Man has not where to lay his head." "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. He's going to be crucified. As time went on he said these things about the suffering he was going to have. He tied that with the idea of the Son of Man.

Then eventually the time came when he said, "They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with great power and glory. Then the disciples would certainly have thought of the occurrence in Daniel 7:14. Nearly 100 without that, but in this one the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven. There's much discussion about the meaning of that particular term, in Dan. But I'm convinced it is a picture of the coming of Jesus Christ. His coming to establish a kingdom upon earth, that coming to which we all look forward. That is described in that v. in the book of Daniel but I don't think people would have thought of when they had all those other occurrences till this one near the end of His ministry and then they remembered (that in Daniel) and they would say, "That is what He is referring to now.

This at the close of his ministry he gives these great statements of the glory of the Son of Man. When he stood before the high priest he said the same thing how the Son of Man, you will see Him sitting at the right hand of the Blessed and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Thus we have a wonderful picture of the method of Christ. There are some individuals who are won when some individual goes up to them and says, "Look here you are a sinner, you should believe in Christ." There are individuals who are won that way, there are wonderful instances of that. But ordinarily we must use tact. Ordinarily we must gradually lead people into the truth. The account of Christ on earth is not merely a revelation of tremendous truth, but it is an example for us in his marvelous way. It is an example for us in His