

But great as are the intellectual difficulties, which beset the humanitarian theory of the person of Jesus, the moral difficulties are still greater. Channing is certainly inconsistent in paying so high a tribute to the character of Jesus, while denying that Jesus was more than a man. Think of the claims which Jesus put forth. He claimed to be the Judge of mankind. This is the ground on which Newman and Strauss charge Him—the one with imposture, the other with enthusiasm. Newman says, “I believe that Jesus habitually spoke of Himself by the title, Son of Man and that in assuming that title He tacitly alluded to the seventh chapter of Daniel and claimed for Himself the throne of judgment over all mankind.” From their standpoint, Newman and Strauss are consistent in the charges which they make; because they regard Him as a mere man, who claimed to be the Judge of the world. What does the claim to be the Judge of the world involve? “It involves such discernment of the thoughts and intents of the hearts of each one of the millions at His feet, such awful unshared supremacy in the moral world, that the imagination recoils in sheer agony from the task of seriously contemplating the assumption of these duties by any created intelligence.”

Think of the terms in which Jesus constantly spoke of Himself. He said, “I am the true vine.” “I am the light of the world.” “I am the resurrection and the life.” “I am the living bread which came down from Heaven.” In striking accord with these terms, are the promises which He constantly made. He said, “Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you *rest*.” “If any man thirst let him come unto Me and *drink*.” “And I appoint unto you a kingdom as My Father hath appointed unto Me.” If Jesus was not more than man, such statements would have been in direct contradiction to His words. “I am meek and lowly in heart.” “I am among you as he that serveth.” “Thus our Lord’s human glory fades before our eyes, when we attempt to conceive of it apart from the truth of His Divinity . . . The choice really lies between the hypothesis of conscious and culpable insincerity and the belief that Jesus speaks literal truth and must be taken at His word.”

Even were we to admit that Jesus did not distinctly announce His own Divinity, the arguments against the humanitarian theory would not lose their force. The Jews understood Him to claim to be Divine. When they found fault with Him for performing a miracle on the Sabbath Day, Jesus said, “My Father worketh hitherto and I work.” For this the Jews sought to kill Him, because He not only