

Special Hour 1

it. That's the answer we would give. But what did Christ say? He said, "Why callest thou me good? None is good save One. That is God." What a peculiar thing to say. "Why callest thou me good? None is good save God." Now if one of you came up to me and you said, "Good man, tell me such and such," and I said "Why do you call me good? There is nobody good except God," you would say, "Oh, excuse me. I made a mistake. I'm very sorry. I know you don't like that manner of address and I shouldn't have used it." That is what you would naturally assume, and I think almost any reader reading this, "Jesus said, "Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one. That is God," would say, "Well, he disclaims goodness. He shows his rare humility. Only God is good. He is not ready to recognize that title as referring to himself." I remember how Dr. Machen used to feel a difference between a man who was a real scholar and a man who was not much of a scholar, and he had a very sharp distinction in his mind between real scholars and people who weren't. There were some men he thought were real scholars who I thought were far inferior to him. In fact, I knew they were. If there was any man I ever knew who was a real scholar, certainly Dr. Machen was, but if you would say to Dr. Machen, "Now, it is wonderful to have a scholar like you discussing this subject in that manner," he would say, "Would you call me a scholar. Do you really think I am a scholar?" He always felt that—he wasn't quite sure he came up to the term of scholar, but of course we all knew that he did. Everybody knew it, but there were many who come up to it who were far inferior to Dr. Machen, that in this case you couldn't give that answer because he said, "No one is good but One, and that is God," and if you didn't have the rest of the synoptics, if you didn't have the rest of the New Testament, your inference from it would be, "Jesus disclaims real goodness. Jesus disclaims deity." That would be the natural conclusion from it. Now we, in the knowledge we have of the rest of the Scripture and knowing that Jesus was God, that He was all goodness in Himself, we find it necessary to give a different interpretation to this, and we know that the disciples, whether they understood it or not then, gave a