

WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS?

#1: Who Am I?

June 24-26, 2006

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of death will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Matthew 16:13-20 TNIV

Introduction: The definition of Christian is “One professing belief in Jesus as Christ or following the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus.” (*The American Heritage Dictionary, 4th Ed.*) What does it mean, then to “believe in Jesus as Christ,” and how does this belief differ from other statements about who Jesus is. One way that we can come to understand our own beliefs is by comparing them to what others believe. Who do they say that he is?

I. Two Different Questions

A. Who do they say that I am?

1. Who do people say I am? *Mark 8:27*
2. Who do the crowds say I am? *Luke 9:18*
3. Who do the people say the Son of Man is?

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the

Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” *Daniel 7:13-14*

B. Who do you say that I am?

C. The first question is informational, the second is transformational and far more important.

II. Four Different Answers: Three “A’s” and a “The”

- A. A great teacher like John the Baptist.
- B. A human deliverer like Elijah.
- C. A prophet like Jeremiah.
- D. *The* Son of the Living God (said Simon Peter)
- E. Is Jesus a good man or *the* God-man?

III. The Church Defined by Peter’s Answer

- A. Revealed by God
- B. Founded on Faith in Christ
- C. Destined to Prevail
- D. Empowered to Serve

Conclusion: In order to better understand the uniqueness of our faith in Jesus as the God-man, let’s spend the summer examining our beliefs in light of others. What do those of other religious persuasions believe about Jesus? Who do they say that he is? And more importantly, who do we say that he is?

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