

SERMON SERIES: Big Questions

Title: Who do you say that I am?

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Key Line

- The closer I get to Jesus the more my life will change.
- Who I believe Jesus is will determine who I become.

Introduction

As a child, did you find church to be exciting or boring? Some children find church fun and are surprised to get to school and find their classmates have a different view.

The same with Jesus. People have many different ideas about Jesus and reactions to him. Two of the most significant questions each of us must resolve: “Who is Jesus?” and “Who am I?”

Seek the Word

Background: The Jewish people were expecting a Messiah who would be a political-military figure, a Jewish King who would drive out the occupying Romans and restore Israel to a place of glory. Jesus had worked many miracles, including feeding thousands of people miraculously. It appeared to them at first that Jesus was going to be the Messiah they expected.

Read Mark 8:27-33 - Peter's Confession

“Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, ‘Who do people say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah.’ “He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. ‘Get behind me Satan!’ he said. ‘You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.’ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.’”

Talk About It

- Would it be fair to say that Peter was trying to “comfort” Jesus by rebuking him, by denying that he would have to suffer and die? In what situations is comforting someone inappropriate?
- Compare Jesus’ words to the idea of the “American Dream.” Is it possible to pursue both?
- Answer honestly:
 - What is Jesus worth to you?
 - What does it cost you to follow Jesus?
 - What are you willing to do in his name?

Apply It

Think about who *you* say Jesus is. In order to make your life more consistent with what you say you believe,

- What is one specific thing you will *add to* your life this week?
- What is one specific thing you will *remove from* your life this week?
- Who will ask you about this next week to hold you accountable to do it?