

SERMON SERIES: 52
SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer
DATE: September 10, 2023

Sermon Title:

“Who Do You Say Jesus Is?”

Introduction

This week in our 52 series, we examine the question, “Who do you say Jesus is?” Peter makes a declaration that Jesus is the Messiah, and we see that when we declare that Jesus is the Son of God, it changes the way that we respond to him. To be followers of Jesus means that we deny our ways and take his way instead.

- Tell about the time you first realized who Jesus was. Who taught you about Jesus? What did it mean for you?

Seek the Word

- Read Matthew 16:13-20. Why does Jesus instruct his disciples not to speak about Jesus’ true identity? Where else do we see Jesus do this?
- Read Matthew 16:21-28. Jesus presents the cost of what it means to be his disciple. Why did this come as a shock to the disciples? How does this change the disciples focus on the ministry of Jesus?

Go Deeper

Read Mark 8:22-33. Peter’s Confession parallels the healing of the blind man in Bethsaida. Peter knows Jesus is the Christ, yet still does not see Jesus clearly. What is he missing?

Talk About It

- There were 3 steps to discipleship that Jesus mentions in the passage in Matthew. Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. Which of these three steps are you struggling with this week?
- What is the next step for you to take in order that you can better follow Jesus? What do you need to deny? How might you need to die to yourself?
- What is it costing you to follow Jesus right now? If you cannot think of anything, ask yourself what you might be refusing to surrender.

Wrap Up

Reminder: To follow Jesus, we must die to our will and our way.

Challenge: Spend some time this week in conversation with a friend or coworker who does not follow Jesus or is struggling to make that decision. Ask them how you can encourage them and what you can pray for. Spend some time praying that they are able to take the next step towards following Jesus.