
WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

SERIES: ANSWERING JESUS' QUESTION

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Scripture: Mark 8:27-30

Purpose: To invite people to answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?"

Introduction:

1. Jesus pulled His disciples away
 - a. From the crowd
 - b. From the danger of Herod
 - c. To a beautiful location in the hills with wooded areas
2. A place where gods were worshiped
 - a. Baal was once worshiped here
 - b. Pan—the Greek god of nature;
A cavern in the hillside was thought to be his birthplace.
 - c. Caesar--worship of the Roman emperor was prolific here.
3. Here Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

I. The timing of the question:

- A. Jesus wondered if he had had any impact at all
 - Did people know who He was?
 - Had anyone glimpsed God in Him?
 - Was His message getting through?
 - How close was He to finishing His mission on earth?

- B. Half way through Mark's Gospel as Jesus' story unfolds.
- C. About six months away from the crucifixion.

II. The timing of announcing the Messiah:

- A. A premature declaration could set off hostility and revolt.
 - 1. Already some wanted to kill Jesus
 - 2. Some would try to over throw Rome and proclaim Jesus King.
- B. Delayed announcement
 - 1. It was too soon for the disciples to tell what they discovered.
 - 2. Jesus must alter their understanding of the Messiah
 - # Peter resisted the idea that Jesus would suffer and die.
- C. After His resurrection His claim of deity would be strongly affirmed by His life.
- D. After Jesus' resurrection from the dead He commissioned them to tell everyone.

III. Why Jesus asked the question?

- A. To measure the effectiveness of his ministry
- B. To assess the awareness of the crowds
- C. To know how far along He was on His mission

IV. Suggested answers then:

John the Baptist

Elijah

One of the prophets

V. Why are these men mentioned?

- A. John the Baptist proclaimed the Gospel and was beheaded by Herod
 - 1. Jesus fearlessly took on the religious leaders—similarity.
 - 2. Jesus and John, cousins, were within 6 months of each other age wise.
 - 3. John might come back from the dead.
 - # Herod feared that and said so

- B. Elijah—His disappearance, but not his death, was documented.
 - # Malachi prophesied that Elijah would return

- C. A collective grouping of prophets who were killed for their faith in God;
 - The common belief was that the spirit of an ancient prophet occupied Jesus.

VI. How would the disciples come to the conclusion that Jesus was the Messiah?

- A. Comparing the scriptures regarding the Messiah and Jesus' ministry;

- B. Listening to the Father—"flesh and blood did not reveal this";

- C. Conclusions were drawn from His character and His conduct.
 - 1. His sinless life
 - 2. Healing a man with leprosy and another from blindness
 - 3. Teaching with authority that astounded the educated.
 - 4. His raising people from the dead.
 - # A skeptic asked a pastor, "Would you believe me if I told you I was

born of a virgin?” The pastor paused and then said, “If you changed water into wine, quieted a storm by raising your voice, if you healed the crippled and rose from the dead, yes, I’d agree you are virgin-born.”

VII. Suggested answers now:

- A. A moral leader
- B. A religious leader
- C. A great teacher
- D. Jesus is who He says—the Savior of the world who forgives our sins and gives the hope of life now and forever with God.

Conclusion:

1. Who do you say Jesus is?
2. The answer affects our thinking, our behavior and our future.
3. Jesus, God Himself, wants you to know Him personally.
Thomas, the skeptical and doubting disciple, upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, exclaimed, “My lord and my God!”
4. He got the answer right: “Who do you say I am?” My Lord and my God.
5. Herein lies the importance of answering Jesus’ question: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”