

The King Revealed - From Unknown to Throne

Who is Jesus? Part 1

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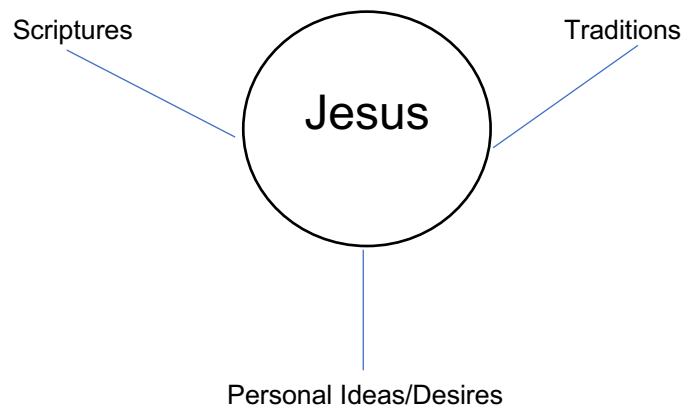
The Reality of Jesus – Who is Jesus to You?

“Who do you say that I am”?

This is a question that Jesus asked two thousand years ago, and it is still as prevalent today as it was then.

Matthew 16:13-20 - Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ (Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-20)

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.



Jesus Manifested

The Beginning	Old Testament	New Testament	Resurrection
•The Logos	•Angel of the Lord	•Historical Jesus	•The Christ

Background of The Passage

The theme of this passage centers around the identity of Christ. On the way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who are people saying that I am”? and so they give some answers which must have reflected their own thoughts. But then Jesus makes the question personal to them, “Who do **you** say that I am”? Peter seems to answer for the disciples and makes the bold proclamation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus confirms this revelation and provides additional revelation to the matter about the Kingdom and the Church.

This location was widely known as the Gates of Hell. **Caesarea Philippi** — *It lay at the foot of Mount Lebanon, near the sources of the Jordan, in the territory of Dan, and at the northeast extremity of Palestine. It was originally called Panium (from a cavern in its neighborhood dedicated to the god Pan) and Paneas. Philip, the tetrarch, the only good son of Herod the Great, in whose dominions Paneas lay, having beautified and enlarged it, changed its name to Caesarea, in honor of the Roman emperor, and added Philippi after his own name, to distinguish it from the other Caesarea (Act 10:1) on the northeast coast of the Mediterranean Sea. [Josephus, Antiquities, 15.10, 3; 18.2, 1]. This quiet and distant retreat Jesus appears to have sought with the view of talking over with the Twelve the fruit of His past labors, and breaking to them for the first time the sad intelligence of His approaching death. – Jamieson – Fausset – Brown*

Central Truth

The answer to the question is both theological and personal.

Main Points

1. If you know who Jesus truly is, the Father has revealed Him to you

- This knowledge does not come from human understanding and deduction
- The Son must be revealed to you by the Father
- You cannot come to the Son unless you are called by the Father
- It is by divine invitation
- Flesh and blood cannot manufacture this level of revelation
- You are blessed, Jesus said to Peter, “blessed are you”
- It is an honor, it is a privilege, it is a great responsibility to know Jesus Christ.

2. It is a personal question that must be answered individually

- Vs 15 – “*But who do you say that I am*”?
- Jesus was unwilling to accept the generic answers that were being provided although they were very noble
- He made the question very confrontational and forced a response from the disciples
- To provide an answer as Peter did, would have been to speak blasphemy according to the Jewish faith
- The disciples were not convinced themselves who Jesus really was, it seemed they were more than content to go along with what others were saying of Him - in fairness, they did not have the Scriptures to rely upon other than the Old Testament
- It is critical that we answer this question for ourselves and once and for all, our answer must be based on revelation that comes from Father and is based on the Word of God
- “*Although we can have a personal relationship with Jesus, we cannot turn Him into our own personal God*”.

Variations of Jesus Today

Buckle up you are about to be offended!

2Corinthians 5:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- Political Jesus – He is a Republican or a Conservative
 - “*Feed the poor*”

- Black Jesus or white European Jesus
 - *“We don’t know Him after the flesh”*
- Social justice and activist Jesus – Liberal Jesus
 - *“Let the dead bury the dead”*
- Cool Jesus/culturally relevant Jesus – ripped jeans, tattoos, expensive sneakers
 - *“There is nothing about Him that would attract us to Him”*
- Corporate Jesus – blue suit and growth principles
- Academia Jesus
 - *“You have kept this from the wise and revealed it to babes”*
- Nationalism Jesus – for God and country
 - *“Seek ye first the Kingdom”*
- Family first Jesus
 - *“Unless you hate mother and father”*
- Prosperity Jesus - or poverty Jesus
 - *“Sell everything you have and follow me”*
 - *“To him that had 10 was given the one”*
- Unity Jesus
 - *“I have come to bring a sword”*
- Politically correct Jesus
 - *“Narrow is the way”*
- Santa Clause Jesus – favours and all grace – no accountability
 - *“We are unprofitable servants”*

3. The answer to the question will determine your own identity and God’s purpose in your life

- People do not know their own identity because they do not know the answer to the question – who is Jesus?
 - Who is Jesus? People that have some affiliation with Him tend to be more confused than people that do not know Him at all
 - The more I know who He is, the more I understand what He requires of me and how I should live my life
 - Blessed are you, when you know who Jesus is, you are blessed of Christ; in other words, it is a blessing to know Jesus
 - “Upon this rock”:
 - To other passages of Scripture. The church is built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets (Ephesians 2:20) and on Christ Himself (1Corinthians 3:11).
 - Jesus said that He would build His church upon the words of the revelation of His identity. The rock-Petros, that He was referring to is not the Basilica in Rome nor the papacy.

Conclusion

“The gates of hell (hades, R.V.) shall not prevail against it. —Death is the entrance into hades, and therefore the gates or entrance of hades denote death. The expression may accordingly denote that death will not destroy the church of Christ. The church will never become extinct (Gloag).” – Preachers Homiletical

The wonder of Jesus

- The entire Bible is about Jesus Christ. Every one of the 66 books of the Bible points, in some way, to the hero of the Bible - God's son Jesus Christ.
- The Bible goes to great lengths to describe Jesus, and yet the scriptures say He was indescribable.
- His teaching was more authoritative than any teacher who had ever been heard.
- We are to worship Him
- His miracles interrupted the natural flow of the laws of physics like no other in human history and no one of His day ever denied His miracles.
- His wisdom was beyond that of any philosopher in history.
- The Scriptures say that He came full of grace and truth and that is a fantastic balance of wisdom.

He raises the standard of morality and living

- Go the extra mile
- If your hand offends you, cut it off
- Turn the other cheek
- Give your cloak also.

He was also sinless but became sin for us

- He never made a mistake, never acted impulsively, never said a misspoken word, never was driven by self-serving anger.
- He was strong and confrontational when necessary with the religious leaders - He spoke firmly with them.
- He exercised absolute power and authority over the demonic world.

Revelation calls Him:

- The Lion of Judah
- The Lamb of God
- The Alpha and the Omega
- The First and the Last
- The Beginning and the End.

Jesus was NOT a unifying figure and He did not come to bring everybody together. He actually forced decisions and created division. He stated the following:

- There are two ways to journey through life—through a wide gate or a narrow gate, along a wide road or a narrow road
- There are two groups of people—those who choose the wide road or narrow road
- There are two destinations—eternal life or eternal death
- You either believe in Me, or you are under Satan's dominion and influence.

Questions & Discussion

- 1) Who is Jesus to you?
- 2) Are there other variations of Jesus that you see in society today? Please list and discuss them.
- 3) What are some of the sayings of Jesus that are very difficult and perplexing?
- 4) What teachings and sayings of Jesus are we not following today? Why?
- 5) Discuss the phrase, "Upon this rock I will build My church". What was the rock that Jesus was referring to?
- 6) How is knowing Jesus connected to our own identity?