

Who Is Jesus?

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. 17 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. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. **Matthew 16:13-20**

This lesson follows a testy _____ with the Scribes and Pharisees.

- Once again, they are trying to find a means of _____ Jesus
- They are looking for some way to turn the crowds against Jesus.

Jesus tests his disciples

- He wants to know about their _____ of faith

Jesus asks 2 questions

1. Who do people say I am?

a. A prophet

- Prophets are _____
- A prophet uses the word of God and their understanding of God to _____ current ills

b. Predicting the future

- Only very _____ does a prophet “predict” the future and what is to come
- When they do predict the future, it is often the _____ progression of what results when one pursues a destructive path (e.g.--if you smoke 6 packs a day, you are likely to die of lung cancer).
- In many cases, the prediction that we see in a prophecy is something that can only be understood in _____
- Even the prophet himself may not have understood that to be its _____ meaning. (e.g.—many of Isaiah’s prophecies that we understand as predicting the birth of Jesus were likely understood as applying to _____, the current king at the time of Isaiah)

2. Who do you say I am?

a. The Christ

1) This is the Greek word for _____

a) The word means “the _____ one.”

b) The term was not an _____ term: there were many Messiah’s in the Bible

- David, Solomon, Josiah, Hezekiah

c) There were many claimants to the title in Jesus’ day

- _____ of Galilee (6 AD—his revolt was brutally crushed by the Romans)
- Theudas (46 AD—led a nearly successful revolt that led to temporary freedoms)

2) There had not been a successful Messiah for hundreds of years

- a) The people yearned for a Messiah that would deliver them from _____
 - This Messiah would restore the _____ of the Jewish nation in the world
 - b) It is not surprising that Jesus was NOT viewed as the Messiah by most Jews
 - He did not have the _____ sensibilities of previous Messiahs
 - Jesus had no ambition for commanding a _____
- 3) In what sense was Jesus a Messiah?
- a) We Christians talk about Jesus being the one who delivers us from sin
 - This is _____
 - b) However, this is not all: Jesus is not only a _____, but also a _____ Messiah
 - Deliverance from bondage IS the _____ of the Messiah
 - _____ are the continuation of the Messiah's work
 - The job is in _____: our purpose is the work of delivering others from oppression
 - However, contrary to other Messiahs, this Messiah insists that we not use military or political means of deliverance.
 - Our only weapon and tool of deliverance is that of _____.
- b. Son of the living God
- This phrase was often used of the Jewish _____: they are the Sons of God
 - As a personal reference, however, it is a term that is only applied to the _____
 - It is a claim that the Messiah has an intimate relationship with God, and an understanding of God that the rest of us do not share.

Is that all?

- The understanding of who Jesus may be for us is a _____ one
- A relationship with Jesus requires a lifetime _____ with and _____ to Jesus
- We grow in our understanding: it does not come to us in _____
- It is not until the confession of Thomas that the disciples understand that Jesus is _____

We are called to walk with Jesus and see where that path may lead us...

... the journey continues still, even after 2,000 years.