

JESUS

Name Above All Names



Sunday, January 6, 2019

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Jesus- that's what we are all about. We do not fear saying the name Jesus.

People reject Him, Religions reject him and lessen who He is!

Our series which begins today is entitled- Jesus, You Can Trust Him Totally.- a look at some of the miracles of Jesus

Luke 9:18-22

¹⁸And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am? ¹⁹They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again. ²⁰He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God. ²¹And he straitly charged them, and commanded *them* to tell no man that thing; ²²saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

G. Campbell Morgan was convinced that the disciples interrupted the prayer of Jesus. "A careful study of the Gospel narratives has led to the justifiable conclusion that our Lord never prayed with His disciples. Often He left them when He would pray. When in their company He prayed, it was not in association with them, but in separation... His praying was on a different plane." (Morgan)

Mark 8:27-33 ²⁷And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Cæsarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? ²⁸And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets. ²⁹And he saith unto them, But

whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. ³⁰And he charged them that they should tell no man of him. ³¹And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

John 6

⁶⁶From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? ⁶⁸Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. ⁷⁰Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? ⁷¹He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

3 Questions to indicate the role Jesus plays in your life.

Jesus was a master of asking questions.

It is important in relationships and counseling- to ask the right questions.

“Caesarea Philippi lies about twenty-five miles [46 kilometers] north-east of the Sea of Galilee...The population was mainly non-Jewish, and there Jesus would have peace to teach the Twelve.” (Barclay)

Caesarea Philippi was an area associated with idols and rival deities. “The area was scattered with temples of the ancient Syrian Baal worship...Hard by Caesarea Philippi there rose a great hill, in which was a deep cavern; and that cavern was said to be the birthplace of the great god Pan, the god of nature...In Caesarea Philippi there was a great temple of white marble built to the godhead of

Caesar...It is as if Jesus deliberately set himself against the background of the world's religions in all their history and splendour, and demanded to be compared to them and to have the verdict given in his favour." (Barclay)

- Question number One- **Whom do men say that I the son of man am?**

Matthew 16

¹³When Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** ¹⁴And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** ¹⁶And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ²⁰Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Interesting answer shows that many did not know who He truly was.

Luke 9:7-8; John 12:34-36, 42-43

Jesus did not ask this question because He didn't know who He was, or because He had an unfortunate dependence on the opinion of others. **He asked this question as an introduction to a more important follow-up question.**

- Question number Two- **But whom say ye that I am?**
- The apostles' "final exam" consisted of two questions. The answer to the first one expressed human opinion concerning Jesus; the answer to the second one expressed divine revelation of His true identity.

It was fine for the disciples to know what *others* thought about Jesus. But Jesus had to ask them, as individuals, what *they* believed about Him.

We can surmise that this was an understanding that Peter and the other disciples came to over time. In the beginning, they were attracted to Jesus as a remarkable and unusual rabbi. They committed themselves to Him as His disciples or students, as was practiced in that day. Yet over time Peter – and presumably other of the disciples by this point – understood that Jesus was in fact not only the Messiah (**the Christ**), but also **the Son of the living God**.

This is the question placed before all who hear of Jesus; and it is we, not He, who are judged by our answer. **In fact, we answer this question every day by what we believe and do. If we really believe Jesus is who He says He is, it will affect the way that we live.**

“Our Lord presupposes that his disciples would not have the same thoughts as ‘*men*’ had. They would not follow the spirit of the age, and shape their views by those of the ‘cultured’ persons of the period.” (Spurgeon)

ONLY ONE ANSWER IS RIGHT! No open discussion.

Personal life?

⇒ **Bible**

⇒ **Prayer**

⇒ **Finances**

⇒ **Church connection**

⇒ **Life's purpose**

⇒ **Baptism**

➤ Question number Three- **Will ye also go away?**

What a scene! Scores of would-be followers of Jesus left Him, and He asked the twelve if they would also go. Jesus searched the motives of *all* that follow Him, including the twelve. As the synagogue emptied, Jesus asked this question that assumed a "No" answer.

"As John phrases our Lord's question in *Greek*, he implies that it was not asked in a mood of despair; the use of the *Greek negative me* in a question indicates that the answer 'No' is expected. 'You don't want to go away too, do you?'" (Bruce)

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life:
Speaking for the twelve, Simon Peter gave a wonderful statement of faith.

- He recognized Jesus as **Lord**.

- He recognized Jesus as the preferred alternative, despite the difficulties.
- He recognized the value of spiritual things, more than the material and earthly desires of those who walked away (**the words of eternal life**).
- He recognized Jesus as Messiah (**the Christ**) and God (**Son of the living God**).

What's your answer to Jesus' crucial question, "Who do you say that I am?" You may be standing with the multitude, saying, "Jesus is a fine example, a great teacher, even a prophet. But He is not the Sovereign Lord of my life." That is a badly mistaken answer. You may be standing with Peter, saying correctly, "You are the Christ," but not understanding the sort of Christ He really is. That's an improvement over the first answer, but it is inadequate. You must stand with Jesus who came as God's Anointed to bear your sins, who was raised in triumph over sin and death, who calls us to follow Him in obedience to the will of the Father. As Peter later preached, "God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified" (Ac 2:36). If you stand there, ready to obey God no matter what

the cost, you have correctly answered Jesus' crucial question, "Who do you say I am?"

If Jesus is not your sin-bearer and your Lord, I encourage you to read the Gospels with the prayer, "God, show me who Jesus is. If You show me that He is Your Anointed Savior and Lord, I will trust Him and follow Him."

One minute take-away