

Jesus Is Asking: "But who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus is asking ...

- How do we read and study the scriptures?
- Are we simply spectators and observers?
- Jesus asked a lot of questions to help His audience learn.

Jesus is asking ...

- Whenever we read Jesus ask a question, He's asking us as well.
- We owe Jesus an answer also!
What is your reply?
- One such question:
"But who do you say that I am?"

"But who do you say that I am?"

Context

- Jesus had just responded to the Pharisees and Sadducees request for ***"a sign from heaven"*** and pointed to them that they should have discerned ***"the signs of the times."***
- He then took His disciples with Him and **warned and admonished** (***"you men of little faith"***) them about the teaching (leaven) of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

"But who do you say that I am?"

Context

- Then as Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, after He had been **praying alone** (Luke 9:18), He began to question them:



"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

- His disciples answered:
 - John the Baptist (Matthew 14:2)
 - Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6)
 - Jeremiah
 - One of the prophets
- A **"safe"** question in that it required no conviction, no commitment, and no risk. It was academic.
- But there was a follow up question!

“But who do you say that I am?”

- There have always been varying answers to this personal question. John 7:40-44; 9:16; 10:19-21
- No longer academic, now it has become personal: a question of commitment!
- Who am I to you? What is your relationship to Me?
- No longer relying on the ideas, opinions, and faith of others, now we answer the question for ourselves!

“But who do you say that I am?”

- Jesus certainly proclaimed who He was to the world and those claims cannot be ignored.
- There are really only 3 choices:
 - Jesus is who He said He was. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - Jesus isn’t who He said He was and therefore He was either a:
 - Liar (He knew He wasn’t what He claimed)
 - Lunatic (He was deluded and deceived)

“But who do you say that I am?”

- What were Jesus’ claims?
 - Jesus claimed equality with God; the only begotten Son of God.** John 5:17-18; 10:30-38; 3:16-18; Matthew 11:27; John 14:7-11; 8:56-58; Mark 14:61-62
 - Jesus accepted worship.** Matthew 8:2-3; 9:18-19; 14:33; 15:25; 28:9-10, 17; Luke 24:52; John 9:35-38.
 - Jesus asserted His sinlessness.** Luke 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 3:9, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10; John 8:46; 17:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:21-22

“But who do you say that I am?”

- What were Jesus’ claims?
 - Jesus claimed to be the Savior.** John 8:12; 10:7-11; 14:6; Luke 19:10; John 12:47
 - Jesus claimed to be the sacrifice for sin.** Matthew 20:28; 26:28; John 10:17-18

“But who do you say that I am?”

What is your answer?

1. Is Jesus real or just a myth and a legend?
2. Is Jesus a fraud or just a good teacher or merely a prophet?
3. Was Jesus a man or just a divine Spirit?
4. Is Jesus the Christ and our Lord and Savior?

“But who do you say that I am?”

How does one answer that question?

1. **With words.** Luke 12:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 4:14.
2. **With actions.** Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:3-5

“But who do you say that I am?”

So, if I answer that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, what are going to be my:

1. **Words?** Will I confess before men? Will I worship Him in spirit and truth? (John 4:24) Will I speak boldly the utterances of God? (Ephesians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 4:11)
2. **Actions?** Will I do what He said and follow His example? (Luke 6:46; John 13:12-15) Will I take His yoke upon Me? (Matthew 11:29)