

**“Who Is Jesus To You?” - Mark 8:27-33** (also in Matthew 16: 13-23 and Luke 9:18-22)

TODAY we mark the words of Jesus in Mark 8:29 where he says: ***“But who do you say that I am?”***

- 27 And Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way, he questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?"  
*[Matt. 16:13: “Who do men say that the Son of Man is?”]*
- 28 And they told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but still others, one of the prophets." *[Matt. 16:14 adds “others, Jeremiah]*
- 29 And He continued by questioning them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Peter answered and said to Him, "Thou are the Christ."  
*[Matt. 16:16 adds: “the Son of the living God”]*
- 30 And He warned them to tell no one about him. *[Matt 16:20: “that He was the Christ”]*
- 31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed and after three days rise again.
- 32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke Him.
- 33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s."

## 1. A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

Note the wording: “but who do you say that I am?”

There is no more important question that man must answer but this: “Who is Jesus to you?”  
For on your answer to this question rests the status of your very soul.

There are other important questions that are related, but pale in importance – such as,  
Do you believe in God?  
Are you a Christian?  
What has Jesus done for you? - and so on.

Jesus had spent the better part of 3 years with these 12 disciples to bring them to this moment. And every true believer comes to a sacred moment in life when the answer to this question is affirmed for the first time.

## 2. A SPECIFIC ENCOUNTER

Note the wording: “You are the Christ (anointed One)”

That Jesus is the Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek) means that He is the long-promised God-Man, come to earth to save. Messiah/Christ is a TITLE – not a name.

To acknowledge this truth of who He is...

1. Affirms His Divinity – Jesus is fully God, the eternal Son of the Father – lit: “the anointed One”
2. Affirms His purpose: He has come to save and redeem from sin
3. Affirms a personal acceptance of this Jesus (not just a “belief”)

### MANY ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION

Today, if you ask this question: “Who is Jesus Christ to you? You will get a wide variety of answers, just like then. Typical answers are:

1. He is the founder of the Christian religion
2. He is a great teacher and prophet
3. He is a great spiritual example
4. He is my Lord and Savior
- Or 5. He is just another good man
- Or 6. He never existed – he is a myth

### **3. A GOD-GIVEN ENCOUNTER**

The correct answer to this question cannot be fully discovered by man alone – it must be given by God.

*Matthew 16:17-19 adds Jesus saying: “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal his to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”*

Therefore, if you are sincerely seeking the answer to this question for your life you must not only search the Scriptures and your heart – but you must wait on God for His guidance.

### **4. A CORRECTIVE ENCOUNTER**

Note: They were warned to “tell no one about Him” Why???

Answer: They needed their understanding of the Messiah to be CORRECTED

Jesus would spend His final year with them doing just that, and He begins NOW

V. 31 says that He began to teach about His coming death and resurrection, which He will continue to emphasize over His last year with them

No Jew expected the Messiah to come to DIE and LEAVE – rather, they expected conquering and kingdom in the NOW

They had plenty of unlearning and learning to do – this was not the time to tell others that He was the Messiah – for they would not communicate the correct idea. This was not the time for evangelism – exposure could result in a premature death sentence and chaos.

But today, Jesus wants us to tell our world who He is – the time for evangelism is now!

### THE IMPORTANT ISSUE IS WHO JESUS IS

When we get into a discussion with others about God – whether it be with a family member or friend, whether it be with a Mormon or Jehovah's Witness at the door, or whether it be with an avowed atheist - get the conversation to who Jesus is to them. Other issues may be important, but they are just peripheral. WHO IS JESUS??!!

### **5. AN OPPOSED ENCOUNTER**

When Peter rebukes Jesus for speaking this way, he is defending all the Jews believed about the coming Messiah. The Jews had made the Messiah in their own image.

Jesus is here encountering again the temptations He experienced in the wilderness when Satan wanted Jesus to do it his way, instead of God's way

God's ways are always different and better than our ways – and we must never get in the way of what God wants to do – even if it means death and suffering.

We can expect that whenever we are doing things God's way, we too will encounter opposition  
This same Peter later wrote in his first epistle:

*1 Peter 4: 12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

### **SO, WHO IS JESUS?**

#### **JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

In Genesis, He is the Creator of all (Colossians 1:16) and Seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent, Satan

And He is our Melchizedek, the high priest who was made like the Son of Man

In Exodus, He is the great I AM (John 8:58 "Before Abraham was born, I AM")

He is our Manna in the wilderness.

He is our Pillar of Fire by night and our Cloud of glory by day

In Leviticus, He is the perfect, sacrificial offering and the Glory of the Tabernacle

In Numbers, He is our Rock in the wilderness (20:8)

In Deuteronomy, He is the One who carries us in the wilderness (1:31)

In Job, He is our Redeemer who lives and will stand on the last day (19:25)

In the Psalms, He is our Song of praise

In the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, He is the Wisdom of the ages

In Song of Solomon He is: The Bridegroom, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, and My Beloved (2:1, 16)

Isaiah in Chapter 6 saw Jesus as the Exalted Lord, sitting on a throne (6:1)

In Isaiah 9:6 He is our Emmanuel (God with us)

In Chapter 9 Isaiah calls Him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (9:6)

In Isaiah 53 He is the Suffering Servant

Jeremiah calls Him the Righteous Branch and The Lord, our Righteousness (23:5,6)

In Daniel, He is the Son of God in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshack & Abednego (3:25)

To Nahum, He is the One whose feet on the mountain brings good news (1:15)

To Haggai, He is the Desire of all nations (2:7)

Zechariah calls Him Branch (6:12) and King over all the earth (14:9)

Malachi calls Him Sun of Righteousness who will rise with healing in His wings (4:2)

### **JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

In Matthew, He is the King of the heavenly kingdom

In Mark, He is the Suffering Servant

In Luke, He is the Perfect Man

In John, He is the Word – the Divine Son of God

In Acts, He is the Lord of the Church

In Romans, He is our Righteousness

In the Corinthians letters, He is the Corrector of wrong practice

In Galatians, He is our Freedom from the law

In Ephesians, He is the Head and Cornerstone of His body, the church

In Philippians, He is our Joy

In Colossians, He is our Hope of Glory, our treasure of wisdom and knowledge and the fullness of Deity in bodily form

In the Thessalonian letters, He is our soon coming Lord

In the Pastoral letters: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, He is the Encourager to church leaders

In Philemon, He is our Master

In Hebrews, He is the High Priest of the New Covenant

In James, He is our Wisdom from above

In 1 and 2 Peter, He is the Cornerstone and our Living Hope in times of suffering

In John's 3 epistles, He is Light and Love

In Jude, He is the Contender of our faith

In Revelation, He is the Alpha and Omega and the eternal Lamb of God (28 x)

Hear these other names of Jesus from Revelation:

Firstborn from the Dead (1:5)

The Almighty (1:8)  
The Living One (1:18)  
Holy and True (3:7)  
The Amen – the “period” of all eternity (Revelation 3:14)  
Ruler of God’s Creation (3:14)  
Lion of the Tribe of Judah and Root of David (5:5)  
Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11) & Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5)  
Word of God (19:13)  
King of Kings and Lord of lords (19:16) and King of the Ages (15:3)  
Morning Star and Offspring of David (22:16)

**In the Gospel of John**, Jesus calls Himself the **I AM** who was before Abraham was born – equating Himself with Jaweh God

Also in the book of John he says of Himself . . .

1. I AM the Bread of Life
2. I AM the Light of the World
3. I AM the Good Shepherd
4. I AM the Door to heaven
5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life
6. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life
7. I AM the Vine

**On the cross of Calvary**, Jesus was

1. The great forgiver – “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”
2. The rewarder of heaven – “Today you shall be in paradise with Me”
3. The great caretaker of family – “Behold your mother; behold your son”
4. The carrier of our sin – “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?”
5. The fully man with need – “I thirst”
6. The payment for all our sin - “It is finished”
7. The One gone into heaven before us – “Into Your hands I commend My spirit”

- **In addition, He is**, to name a few more –

The Last Adam - the greater than Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45)  
Our Advocate - our “lawyer” in heaven (1 John 2:1)  
Apostle of our profession (Hebrews 3:1)  
Author and Finisher of our Salvation (Hebrews 12:2)  
Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:14; 3:16)  
Beloved Son (Ephesians 1:6)  
Captain of our Salvation (Hebrews 2:10)  
Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)  
Deliverer (Romans 11:26)  
Firstborn of all Creation (Col. 1:15)

Heir of All Things (Hebrews 1:2)  
Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69)  
The Image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4)  
Judge of the Living and the Dead (Acts 10:42)  
King Eternal (1 Timothy 1:17)  
Lord of All (Acts 10:36)  
Man, from Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:48)  
Mediator of a New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15)  
Our Holiness (1 Corinthians 1:30)  
Our Husband (2 Corinthians 11:2)  
Our Protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3)  
Our Redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30)  
Our Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30)  
Power of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)  
Rabbi (Matthew 26:25)  
Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)  
The One Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)

So... Who is Jesus to You? - far more than you can think or imagine!

YET, He above all, He must be...

God (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:8; etc.)

Savior (Ephesians 5:23) and

Friend (John 15:15)

You, like the disciples, must have

1. A Personal Encounter
2. A Specific Encounter
3. A God-Given Encounter
4. A Corrective Encounter

And it will surely be

5. An Opposed Encounter... BUT ENCOUNTER HIM!