

# **Who Do You Say Jesus Is?**

2-17-19

Luke 9:18–20 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “**Who do the crowds say that I am?**” <sup>19</sup> And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

**Leading up to this account, Jesus has spoken powerful Words of God and performed mighty miracles. Just prior to asking these questions, Jesus fed five thousand men plus women and children by multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish. Luke 9:16-17 states, “Jesus taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces left over.”**

**After all this had taken place, Jesus asks HIS disciples two questions:**

**#1 “Who do the crowds say that I am?”**

**The disciples answered that the crowds had various opinions. But to put it bluntly, the crowds didn’t have a clue who Jesus was.**

**Then Jesus asks the second question, which is the most penetrating, and important question of all.**

**#2 “But who do you say that I am?”**

**The real question in which Jesus was most concerned was who the disciples say HE is.**

**Then Peter who had seen the works of Jesus, gives the answer, Jesus is “The Christ of God.”**

**Jesus is often referred to as Jesus Christ. It is important to understand the word “Christ”. The term *Christ* is Greek for ‘Anointed one’, which is the translation for Messiah in the OT. Therefore, Peter declared that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah. This is the most important statement thus far in the book of Luke. This is the first time a disciple refers to Jesus as Messiah. Once the disciples acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, Jesus did not make any claims about changing the world. Observe that immediately after Peter’s great declaration, Jesus predicts his rejection, death, and resurrection. Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world, has one more thing to do.**

**Luke 9:22 (ESV)**

**The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.**

**This is the foundation for all Christianity; the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**Therefore the big question for each of us is, “Who do we say Jesus is?”** Look at examples of those who had to come to grips with this question.

**Thomas was one of Jesus’ disciples. After Jesus was crucified, Thomas had given up any hope that Jesus was the Savior of the world. When the other disciples told him that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas did not believe them.**

John 20:26–27 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, Jesus’ disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **“Peace be with you.”** <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, **“Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”**

**The doubting Thomas had no doubt who Jesus was!**

John 20:28 (ESV)

Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

**Another example is the Apostle Paul, a religious leader, who looked at Jesus as a total fraud and did not believe HE rose from the dead.**

Acts 9:1–4 (ESV)

Saul was breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord ... ..<sup>3</sup> Now as Paul went out to persecute Christians suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, Paul heard a voice saying to him, “**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**”

**The enemy of Jesus came face to face with the reality of who Jesus is!**

Acts 9:5 (ESV)

Paul said, “Who are you, Lord?” And Jesus said, “**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**”

**Not only did the Apostle Paul believe Jesus was who HE said HE was, Paul became a passionate follower of Jesus who wrote two thirds of the NT.**

**Most importantly, Jesus has the testimony of God, the Father HIMSELF. Peter, James, and John went with Jesus on a mountain to pray. There a cloud overshadowed them and God spoke to them.**

Luke 9:35 (ESV)

A voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”

**All this information is fascinating, but the big question still remains, “Who do we say Jesus is?”**

**This question is the most important question of our lives! When we believe in Jesus Christ we are reconciled to God and we carry the name Christian!**

Acts 16:31 (ESV)

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

**Therefore this is the message of the love of God we as Christians carry to the whole world.**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, Jesus, that whoever believes in Jesus should not perish but have eternal life.

**Prophetic Team**

***Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.***