

"Who do you say I am?"

A. Sermon in a Sentence: *To know who Jesus is, we must know who we are.*

Bringing Jesus Into Focus:

- He is Immanuel (God with us). **Matthew 1:23**
- He is the Suffering Servant. **Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12**
- He is the Messiah-Savior-Lord. **Luke 2:11**
- He calls us to receive Him. **John 1:12**
- He calls us to become like Him. **Romans 8:29**

B. Context of Today's Question

The purpose of the Gospel of Mark is to bring Jesus into focus for the disciples and the book's readers. This section is the hinge when our perception of Jesus begins to turn. Jesus has just healed a blind man in two stages (8:22-26), mirroring the disciples' slow movement toward spiritual clarity.

Peter speaks up in response to the question, "Who do you say I am?" with a clear statement that Jesus is the **Messiah** (Greek: **Christ**). Peter still only vaguely understands what *Messiah* means, but this is a milestone on his journey toward real faith in Jesus as Lord. In an almost comedic twist, Peter immediately reveals his residual blindness when he reprimands Jesus for speaking about his upcoming suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. Unless we see Jesus as he really is, we worship a false god.

C. MARK 8:27-33 (NLT)

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets." ²⁹ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. ³³ Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

D. The Journey Family Live Discussion:

- Which of your five senses is your strongest? Your weakest? How has that affected you?
- What stages of insight have you moved through in your recognition of Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
- Why do you think the disciples were unable to fully recognize Jesus as God until after the resurrection? When has it taken you a long time to change your paradigm?
- Who around you is stuck in spiritual blindness? Ask Jesus for how he wants to bring healing into their life. Pray for that person each day this week and seek to do something kind and spiritually nourishing for them.