

Who Do You Say That I Am? – March 10, 2021

Matt. 16:13-16 – Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am?

Jesus is really asking – what am I to you?

Of all the questions we answer in life, this is the most important.

A – Jesus is key to Christianity; w/o Him it doesn't exist. 6 attributes:

1) Historical – He existed. Son of a carpenter from Galilee.

2) Divinity

1) Before time, He was present. **John 1:1-2**

2) Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!"

John 8:57-58

3) Jesus forgave sins, which only God could do (**Mark 2:5-11**)

4) Jesus had seen God (**Jn 6:46**); He was from Heaven. (**John 3:13**)

3) Miraculous - from start to finish - Born of a virgin. Rose Again. Did them.

4) The Messiah – Promised One – Son of God

1) **John 3:16**: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." **A Messiah to save us; eternal life.**

2) Jesus affirms Peter's statement that He is the Messiah, revealed to Peter by God. (**Matt 16**)

3) He admitted to Samaritan woman He was the Messiah - **Jn 4:25-26**

4) The Jews asked, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." And Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe." **John 10:24-25.**

5) "But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." **John 10:38 (both Miracle/Messiah)**

5) Gateway to Heaven

1) Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" - **John 14:6**

2) He said: **all who believe in Him** will have eternal life - **John 3:14-15**

3) He is the **gate** for the sheep (**John 10:7, 9**); the **bread** of life (**John 6:35**); He is the **resurrection & the life**. (**John 11:25**).

6) Jesus is Lord (someone having power)

- a. When Thomas saw the nailprints in Jesus' hands, he responded, "**My Lord and my God.**" (John 20:28)
- b. Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost - "Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both **Lord and Messiah.**" (Acts 2:36).
- c. Paul makes clear that Jesus' lordship is connected to His resurrection: "If you declare with your mouth, '**Jesus is Lord,**' and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)
- d. Because Jesus was ... "obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that **Jesus Christ is Lord.**" (Phil. 2:8-11).

B. Who is Jesus to you? Is He historical, or real? Popular figure, or personal? Are we Fans or Followers? **Is He Savior, Shepherd, Lord?**

1) Is He **Savior**?

- a. Willing to admit your sin and imperfection? Need a Savior.
- b. Willing to kneel at cross?
- c. Willing to stop trying to earn love, and just accept His love?

2) Is He your **Good Shepherd?** That's such a comforting picture of Jesus. But Shepherds lead the sheep... Are you following?

3) Is He **Lord**?

- a. Does He hold authority over you? Have you submitted to Him? Have you made Him your boss? (seeking to know what He wants you to do and how to do it?)
- b. And then - Do you obey? Live life on His terms, to please Him?

Don't just be a "fan" of Jesus. Be a follower of the Shepherd. Be a servant of Him as Lord. And be the wonderful you He created, and loves.

Song of the Week: "*Who Do You Say That I Am?*" – by David Phelps

Sunday, March 14 – "spring forward"