



## Life Group Sermon Study Notes

### “Who Do YOU Say I Am?”

Ps. Bryson Breakey and Aaron McGee – June 28, 2020

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What's your favorite season of the year?
- What's your favorite clothing style?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

#### **Matthew 16:13**

*13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

**Pastor Bryson Breakey and Aaron McGee had a conversation to help us think about how our upbringing and cultural experiences impact our view of Jesus.** Does Jesus identify with your view of politics, ideal social norms, and preferred lifestyle? Can Jesus identify with your views as well as those views that are not like yours? When we look at scripture, the passage in Matthew recalls a conversation that Jesus had with his disciples. The heart of the discussion was to help solidify their understanding and confession of who Jesus was despite the prevalent misconception of the day.

Jesus's first question was, who do people say I am? The disciples listed Jewish leaders. This reflected the culture of the majority of people exposed to the initial ministry of Jesus. We often do the same thing. In other words, we try to relate to Jesus primarily through our upbringing and cultural experiences. We look to connect through mental pictures or literal pictures of him as black, white, brown, red, or yellow. Is he a hipster, trendy, elite, prosperous, or an everyday kind of guy? Is he a God of law and order compared to mercy, or is he for the abundant life over the lowly life?

There is nothing inherently wrong with anyone's culture; indeed, there is no way to escape being conditioned by it. **However, it can get to the point that our experiences serve to aid us in boxing God into who we want him to be.**

In the text, Jesus is intentional in addressing misconceptions about him. We pick up on that all the more, considering the conversation that happened in Caesarea Philippi. People went there to sacrifice to gods for the sake of getting something from the gods. It was all about them getting things like wealth, fertility, love, and satisfaction. **Are we letting the things that we want dictate who Jesus is, or are we looking to let him make us more like him?**

**Jesus asked a second question – who do you as my disciples say that I am?** Peter said you are Christ, the Son of the living God. This answer showed that Peter had a supernatural revelation of Jesus as not being on one particular side of humanity. Jesus came to earth to bring about the will of God. The misconception of Jesus is as prevalent today as it was during the disciple's day. The thing that ultimately convinced the disciples of the true nature of Jesus was his death on the cross and resurrection. All but one of the original disciples went on to represent Jesus well. They spoke the truth of Jesus despite the suffering they experienced. They became convinced that he alone was the answer for all of humanity, and their words and deeds towards others lived out that conviction.

Jesus came down to get in the middle of the mess of humanity to bring reconciliation for all. Jesus is the only meeting place between a holy God and sinful people. When we have different constructs of who Jesus identifies with, it only brings division. As we grow in our revelation of Jesus, it warrants daily evaluation for how to respond to the chaos of life. **May we lay down what we wish Jesus was and pick up what the scripture actually proclaims him to be – the savior of the world and sovereign over the world's outcome.**

#### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What image do you have of Jesus, and why?
- In what ways are you intentional to grow in your understanding of Jesus?

#### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.**

- Thank God that Jesus lived a sinless life, died, and rose again, giving him the authority to reconcile humanity to God and one another.
- Ask God for his transformative power to grow us in our understanding of Jesus.
- Ask God for wisdom in proclaiming Jesus to those who don't think like us.