

The Greatest Question We Could Ever Be Asked!

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Matthew 16:13 *Who do you say I am*
Matthew 5:3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit*
Romans 10:9 *If thou shalt confess*
Romans 10:10 *For with the heart man believeth*
Romans 10:12 *For the same Lord over all*
Romans 10:17 *faith cometh by hearing, and*
Matthew 12:20 *A bruised reed shall he not break*
Matthew 12:21 *In His name Gentiles will trust.*

Theme: **Really knowing Jesus**

When Jesus and His disciples NIV **Matthew 16:13** “*Came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’*”

14 *They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’”*

Caesarea Philippi is the northernmost point in Israel that Jesus reached during His ministry. It was the apex of His journeys and seemed a good place to ask the important question, “*Whom do men say that I am?*”

Jesus wanted to know *from* them what the people of Israel were saying *about* Him—because knowing *who He is*, is *central* to trusting on His *power* to heal; to protect; to provide; to forgive; and to save from the flames.

Then Jesus asked **15** “*But what about you? ‘Who do you say I am?’*” The answer would mean everything, and Peter did not even hesitate in answering. **16** “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

17 *Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.’*

It was the *right* answer and which means *more* than at first realized. Jesus went on **Matthew 16:18** “*And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of [Hell] shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*”

Who do *we* say Jesus is? Do we really **believe** He is the One God has sent? All four Gospels tell us that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah—the Savior of the world. And he was sentenced to death for making that claim.

The Gospels tell us, however, that the horrible crucifixion was planned from the beginning to provide us a way back into a close relationship with God.

The Bible tells us that we are all sinners, imperfect, separated from God, and that there is nothing we can do of ourselves to take away our sins.

We bring nothing to the table as of any merit or goodness of ourselves. We are *poor* in spirit as Jesus mentioned. AV **Matthew 5:3** “*Blessed are the poor in spirit [or humble in attitude]: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*”

The *answer* we give to *Who do we say Jesus is*—means *more* than we may at first think. If we answer that He is *the Christ, the Son of the living God*, then that is absolutely correct. Jesus is the One we trust for all things in this life—including eternal life in Heaven.

No one should say that Jesus is just a good man or just a prophet, because He is the Son of God, our Messiah, the sinless Lamb of God, the One God sent to take away the sins of the world by the shedding of His Blood on a cross!

He is the One we always *pray* to when we need something. We are to have a very close and personal relationship with Him—talking with Him in prayer often about anything that may be on our mind.

Many times in a day—whether at work, at school, assembling a machine, or doing anything that needs to be completed—we may say: ‘*I hope this turns out the way I want it to.*’

It could be preparing a meal, cleaning the house, repairing the car, or filling out a questionnaire. We should remind ourselves—we can *talk* with Jesus and ask Him in prayer to *make* it turn out right—He is always with us. He wants to be part of our life every minute, and to be part of anything we attempt to accomplish.

Do we *acknowledge Him in all our ways*? He told us that He is the *Light on our path*. If we walk *in the Light*, we will not stumble or fail in our attempts to do things. Do we take *the Light of the World* with us whenever we attempt to do something?

What can we do to *prove* that He is the sinless Lamb who took away the sins of the world when He gave His life on the cross?

What would prove that He is the *Messiah*; the perfect *Lamb*; the *One* God sent to us? Would we give *our* life for *Him*, as He gave *His* life for *us*?

Jesus said that anyone who places anyone or anything ahead of Him—even their own life, cannot be His disciple. He wants us to put Him *first* among all things—not just *some* but *all* things!

Jesus told us not to fear those who kill the *body*, but cannot kill the *soul*. He said to fear Him who *is* able to destroy *both* body and soul in Hell. Yes, fear Him!

There should never be a time when we would hesitate to state our *faith in* Him and our *trust on* Him—because He *is* our Messiah and Savior and King! The answer we give to: *Who we think Jesus is*, will tell much about what is in our heart.

AV Romans 10:10 “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*”

It is good to remind ourselves that God accepts all who come to Him in humility and sincerity of heart. He accepts anyone AV Romans 10:12 “*For the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

Do we have this *faith* to be saved? The answer is why we study the Bible and attend church services to hear Scripture read and messages of truth spoken. AV Romans 10:17 “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

Confessing our sins to God is important—it is *knowing* that Jesus is *listening* and *promising* to answer our prayers. AV Romans 10:9 “*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*”

How important is Eternity to us? Jesus told us that all things are possible to those who believe. Not just *some* things possible, but *all* things are possible.

It comes back to *who we say Jesus is!* Do we *believe* He *is* who He *says* He *is*—the One God sent to teach us, deliver us, and save us?

Heaven and earth may pass away, He said, but His Words and His power will *never* pass away. All that He promises will always be available to all who *believe* and *trust* in Him.

If anyone asked: *Whom do we say Jesus is*, we should be able to say what Simon Peter said AV Matthew 16:13 “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” and if we would *say* that, and if we truly *believed* that, then many *other* things we *say* would be much *different*.

Jesus as God Incarnate already knows everything we *say* and *do*—it is on record in Heaven—and we will have to *explain* to Him someday—everything we have said or done.

If we ask someone’s opinion, it tells us much about their values and beliefs. Many waste time giving their opinions on social media today, but they *should* be able to give a *scriptural* opinion of *who Jesus really is*.

A person once said of Jesus: He was [quote] *A Man who was completely innocent, offered Himself as a sacrifice for the good of others,*

including His enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act! [unquote].

Knowing who Jesus is goes far beyond just forming an opinion of Him. Jesus wanted people to *know* who He was, because only by *knowing* Him, would they be able to *trust* Him and what He accomplished for them on the Cross.

Jesus said of Himself AV Matthew 12:20 “*A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. 21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.*”

Jesus *knew* what His disciples thought of Him, but He wanted them to *say* in *Whom* they believed. When we *love* someone, we want them to *know* it—our love should *not* be hidden.

In the same way, our *love* for God and our *belief* in His Son should not be hidden either. *Stating* something has a way of *strengthening* what we *believe*. It is the answer to: The Greatest Question We Could Ever Be Asked—Whom do we say Jesus is?

He is *the Christ, the Son of the living God*—NKJV Matthew 12:21 “*And in His name Gentiles will trust.*”



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