

Luke 9:18-20

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" 19 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." 20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

- It is interesting to me that everyone seems to be an expert on Jesus. I don't know how many people who have never picked up a Bible try to tell who Jesus really was and try to school me on what He stood for.
- Some say He was a teacher. Even Buddhists and Muslims acknowledge Him as such. Of course, they have no idea what His teachings are other than "love one another".
- Some say He was a prophet who was nothing more than other prophets who brought warnings from God about how we are screwing up the world.
- Some say he was made up by a bunch of zealots, that He really didn't exist as a person but was a compilation of Jewish views by a people under the yoke of Roman occupation
- Some say He was just a man with a good message who was blown out of proportion by the evangelists some 50 years later who invented all the supernatural stuff about Him.
- Even His own disciples could quote the crowds who thought He was John the Baptist or the expected second coming of Elijah.

Jesus Himself knew that His own disciples were struggling with the question.

- They had seen Him fill their nets after they had toiled for hours catching nothing
- They had seen Him heal the sick and raise the dead
- They had heard Him forgive people's sins
- They had seen Him calm the storm
- They had seen Him cast out demons
- They had been sent out with His authority and power and experienced the results

- They had seen Him multiply the loaves and the fishes

And still they weren't sure who He was. Why?

Lest we judge them too harshly let's look at the following things:

- No one had ever seen anything like this – they had no grid-work for what they were seeing. It simply did not compute
- The reality of life gets in the way of us understanding the reality of the kingdom
- They all interpreted what they saw in terms of their experience
- While they saw these things with their own eyes it was so far from their grasp that it just didn't jive with this man that they lived with day in and day out

So here's the question for you: who do you say He is?

I don't want to hear any Sunday school platitudes.

Who do you say that He is?

To put it a different way: Who do your actions say that He is?

- Do you pray every day?
- Do you read His Word and obey His Commands?
- Do you follow in His footsteps?
- Do you obey the Great Commission and make disciples?
- Do you heal the sick and raise the dead?
- Do you minister to the poor?
- Do you believe in miracles?
- Do you walk in His authority and power?

My King Is

My Jesus is:

- The one who empowers

- The one who authorizes
- The one who commissions
- The one who sends out
- The one who works through His Church
- The one who still heals, still casts out demons, still raises the dead and calms the storm
- Only now He does it through you and me