

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Matthew 16:13-28

Knowing Somebody

Know ABOUT them

Or Know THEM

- Historical figures
- Famous people
- Friends
- Acquaintances

Spending time with someone is a good way to get to know them

- Asking them things
- Listening to their answers
- What they say AND don't say
- Watch what they DO and Don't do

It's part of why gossip and slander is so dangerous

We begin to formulate opinions without knowing the truth or the whole story

We look at that person through a different lens from now on

The media know it. Governments know it. Pay attention to not just what is said about someone, but how it's said, and who's saying it - and why they might be saying it

But for Jesus, how do we know Him?

Have you met Him?

Do you talk to Him?

Do you let Him speak to You? (in prayer, worship, Bible study)

John 10:27 NKJV - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Is He our best friend? Our lover? Our Father? Our boss? Our leader? Our comforter?
Our Teacher? The list goes on!

Many people know ABOUT Jesus, but don't really know Him

Ginosko - where we get know/knowledge

*To learn, come to know, get a knowledge of, perceive, feel
But also an intimate knowledge*

Also, many people know “A” Jesus that isn’t the Jesus revealed in scripture
The Jesus of the cults
The Jesus of religions
Is not the same Jesus as the Jesus of the Bible

Matthew 24:23-24, 26-27 NKJV - "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here [is] the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe [it]. "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ... "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; [or] 'Look, [He is] in the inner rooms!' do not believe [it]. "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

[Pray]

16:13-15

He asked His disciples

This wasn’t to the crowds. It was to those who followed Him. Who were close with Him.
Who did life with Him.

Defines himself, “I, the Son of Man”

Human being - a son of man, but THE son of man.

When people see the man Jesus, who do they see?

Who do they think this person is? Just a man?

Liar, Lunatic or Lord

Daniel 7:13-14 NKJV - "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, [One] like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom [the one] Which shall not be destroyed.

Who Do Men say?

What do other people say?

John The Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, One of the Prophets
Resurrected, brought back

They recognized Jesus as at least a prophet

(if this were true, they'd have to realize that he wasn't lying when he was shown to be God)

Prophets did some healings - but not this many!

Prophets spoke forth the things of God - but not like this!

Many prophets died awfully, sawn in two - but never came back to life!

JTB obviously not him, they were around together

Saved a seat for Elijah's return as he was taken up to heaven

Jude 1:9 NKJV - Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

*Satan would have loved to have used one of these guys to deceive the people
Interesting point about what will happen with the AC, while we're not here
Late bus, early bus*

Jesus now asks...who do YOU say that I am?

Other people say all sorts of things - but what do you think for yourself?

It's so important that our faith is our own.

Not just what we've heard - although we need to hear.

Not just what we've been taught - although we need to be taught.

That we apply it ourselves.

That we have our own relationship with God, for ourselves.

Not just what our parents did

Not just what our church does.

But what we do personally, individually.

Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for [His] good pleasure.

In some way, when we stand before God one day, we'll be asked what WE did with Jesus.

Did we know Him? And more importantly, **did He know us?**

:16-20

**Peter is bold enough to speak up first, in front of everyone
And gets it right!**

**The Messiah
The long-awaited savior
Not just son of man, but son of God!**

This is not something the flesh figures out

The flesh sees Joseph and Mary, out of wedlock, illegitimate
No faith to believe His birth was miraculous by a virgin

The flesh sees just an ordinary blue-collar worker from a no-nothing town

The flesh at most sees a previous prophet, back from the dead

**But not God in flesh.
Not the Last Adam
Not the savior of the world.**

**God revealed it to Peter.
God reveals it to us.
God does not want to be hidden, if we'd but look.**

If we'd be willing to recognize him amongst the crowd
In a normal, average-looking man 2000 years ago

You are Peter - petra, stone

**But the rock the church is built on? Not this man (as we'll see soon)
But on the solid rock of Jesus, being God, being the messiah**

**The gospel
The good news**

**Does this mean the church can't ever be defeated or persecuted or lose?
No. It has, it will, it does.**

**Eternally, the church prevails.
Temporarily it suffers.
And so do we.**

**Do not let your suffering, Christian, deter you from prevailing eternally
Do not give in. Do not turn back. Keep your eyes on Jesus.**

Revelation 3:10-13 NKJV - "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And [I will write on him] My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

And I have to say it, no, Peter is not the first pope

The catholic "church" is not the church

They are a religion melding Roman ritual and Christian covering started by an emperor

DGC iii. There is no doubt that Peter had a special place among all the disciples, and that he had some special privileges:

He is always listed first in the listings of the disciples.

He opened doors of the kingdom to the Jews in Acts 2:38-39.

He opened doors of the kingdom to the Gentiles in Acts 10:34-44.

iv. Yet there is no Biblical argument whatsoever that Peter's privilege or authority was passed on. To put it one way; one might say that Jesus gave Peter the keys, but didn't give him the authority to pass them on to further generations, and there is not a whisper in the Scriptures that Peter's authority was to be passed on.

Binding and loosening

Many will form strange doctrines and prayer rituals out of this

Thinking it gives some great personal power

But think of the relationship

Since we're the church, the body of Christ, why would we not just as simply have free access in heaven and on earth to the things of God?

Why wouldn't our prayers be heard? Answered?

Matthew 6:9-10 NKJV - "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed

be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven.

Now Jesus does exactly what you'd think not do to

Wouldn't this be the best time to tell everyone?

The crowds see something in Jesus, but are confused

Peter has the answer! Let's reveal Jesus!

But this isn't the way God does things.

He doesn't capitalize on market conditions for spiritual things

He isn't revealed by men, but by God.

We can try very hard to convince people who Jesus is.

And in some sense, we should. Share the gospel. Teach the truth. Live holy.

But the only way someone will see is if God opens their eyes.

We can only join in the work he is already doing.

And we can pray that the work, His will, is done.

He wishes that none would perish.

But Jesus being revealed comes in God's way and in God's time

*i. "Before they could preach that Jesus was the Messiah, they had to learn what that meant."
(Barclay)*

:21

Now that they knew who he was for sure

He revealed them the end goal - what must happen

Persecution, death, and ultimately - resurrected

DGC The disciples were probably so shocked that Jesus said He would be killed in Jerusalem that these words didn't sink in.

Jesus is saying, I'm the Messiah, this is what I'm here for

It's not to rule and reign on this earth

It's to reveal God and redeem men

To bring about God's kingdom - heaven

And heaven comes through salvation

:22-23

Peter, fresh off a great revelation. Standing tall in his spiritual insight...

Just having listened to the voice of God in the Spirit
Listens to the voice of the enemy in the flesh

*Jesus, no way! We won't let them kill you! You shouldn't have to die!
You can live forever! Ruling and reigning in this time!*

Does this not remind you of the arguments of the devil in the wilderness?

You can have all if you just do it my way

Peter, goes from being a vessel of truth to a vessel of Satan's very words

Kinda scary. But Peter didn't have the Holy Spirit yet.
He was a disciple, but in a sense, he wasn't yet born again

Not mindful of the things of God but the things of men

Stark contrast

The son of man was mindful about the things of heaven
While the rest of mankind only cared about the things of each other
Power, money, pleasure

You are an offense to me
Do we not all want to be pleasing to God?
We won't be pleasing to the world.
To our unsaved family.
To our unsaved friends and coworkers.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 NKJV - For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one [we are] the aroma of death [leading] to death, and to the other the aroma of life [leading] to life. And who [is] sufficient for these things?

Want to be pleasing to God? Be mindful of His things, In His Way, In His Timing

:24-28

The way to do that? Denying ourselves.

Taking up what God has called us to do - and it means death to something
And follow Him

Go where's he's gone before.

Clutching on, holding on too hard, to the things of this life - and we'll lose it

We have to do the opposite. Let go of what we can control
Hold on to God. Let Him control.

It's a daily laying down of our will

**The only thing we have of our own is our will, and our soul
What we choose in this life will either cost it or gain it**

Rest assured, there is a heavenly reward.

It should motivate us to not live for the earthly reward

Thanks, recognition, power, money, praise - even for spiritual things

"Reward openly for what we've done in secret!"

Some standing here

The transfiguration is next, Peter, James and John will see Jesus revealed

John will eventually write Revelation

"The things which must take place after this"

He sees the end

He sees the earthly millennial reign

He sees the new heavens and new earth

Before dying!

John 21:20-23 NKJV - Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what [about] this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what [is that] to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what [is that] to you?"

What is it to you?

What other people say or think about Jesus?

About you?

Who do you say that He is?

Liar, Lord or Lunatic?

What does your life say about who He is and what you believe about Him?

What does it matter what you gain or lose in this life if you have Jesus?

"What is that to you? You follow me!"