

## **Who Do You Say I AM? Part 2**

After Jesus asked the disciples who do people say He is their response was:

**Matthew 16:14 - "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."**

This response shows they were focusing on what others were saying. They were walking with the King but still had limited knowledge of who He was; His true identity. Then Jesus asked them what they thought personally about who He was. We have to remember that these men were not scholarly men. They were not "book smart" as we would say today. In fact, they were the outcasts; the thugs so to speak. Though I believe they had some knowledge of the scriptures, I do not think they were the ones that were considered knowing all there was to know. They may have even been the ones to disregard the scriptures because of issues with authority (can anyone else relate- I did before coming to Christ). I can imagine them scratching their heads and staring vacantly at one another when Jesus asked:

**Matthew 16:15 - "But who do you say that I am?"**

The one with the biggest attitude of them all; the one who had the biggest temper; the one who probably defied the authority figures publicly; the least expected of all the disciples was whom God used to give the answer.

**Matthew 16:16-17 - Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

My point is not to say you have to have an attitude towards religion or anything like that. My point is that God often uses those whom man would not usually consider as being usable (remember Moses and David? Or how about the story of the talking donkey?)

Jesus gives a response of how Peter was given this revelation then He follows it with a few promises.

Matthew 16:17-19 - Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We are called to submit to those the Lord has placed in authority (leadership) whether it be church leadership or world leaders (Romans 13:1-7). However, it is still our Lord and Savior we are following and we are to listen to. We are to speak what Holy Spirit says instead of following any man's doctrine or how man says we should respond (Mark 13:9-13).

How many of us follow and believe what one person says just because they are well known and "established" instead of someone who is not well known? Holy Spirit could give (and usually does) multiple people the same message but it would be disregarded from someone who is less known or considered in some way less than the known person. This is a flaw that the Lord is in the process of correcting. How about this one? We disregard a word from the Lord given to someone because it doesn't line up with what we have been taught (our theology/doctrine).

There is a difference between correction and judgment. Because of our "feel good" society, we no longer can distinguish the difference (both as the giver and the recipient). This is not a judgement word but a correction word.

If we do not have the revelation of whom Jesus the Christ is, how can we effectively show Him to the lost to walk into and receive their salvation?

I will stop short to allow all of us to let this sink in. This is the season to check our hearts and see if there is anything we are still carrying that does not align with God's Truth.

Stay tuned for Part 3...

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