



Who Do You Say I Am? (Originally appeared in the 2014 Mosaic)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:13-16)

Through the ages this question has been asked by many persons, some looking for an explanation, some looking for knowledge and some looking for faith. The early church fathers were not of one accord about Jesus and the dispersed early Christian groups had views of Jesus that varied widely. Gnostic Christians placed their emphasis on Jesus’ wisdom and knowledge, while followers of Paul emphasized Jesus’ death and resurrection. Present day scholars have tried to find the historical Jesus within the Bible and limited external sources. Some have labeled Him a legend, a teacher, a Jewish mystic, a Jewish Messiah, an apocalyptic prophet or an itinerant preacher. None of these labels seem to comfortably or completely fit the Jesus that we see day after day in our own lives.

We each have to answer for ourself the same question asked of the disciples: “Who do you say I am?” As we see His workings in the world and in our own lives, can we deny the real answer: You are the Christ! From this follows repentance and faith in His goodness and mercy to reach salvation through grace.

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Scripture:

Matthew 16:13-16

Mark 8:29

Luke 9:20

John 6:68-69

Matthew 7:21

Hebrews 11:6

Colossians 1:18