

In the Hot Seat with Jesus

Questions Jesus Asked

Who Do You Say that I Am?

Matthew 16:13-23

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Sept. 18, 2011

I. Don't Think You Can Trust the Crowd on This One

Luke 9:18

Matthew 16:13

Religion	Who is Jesus?
Liberal	Just a good man, not God
Jehovah's Witness	Michael the archangel
Mormon	A man who became one of many gods
Unitarian	A great man to be respected for his teaching and love
New Age	A state of consciousness we can all aspire to
Scientology	A figment of your imagination

II. Don't Think You Can Avoid Making a Decision Yourself

Matthew 16:15 "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"

That's the question that matters most! When you stand before Christ you won't be able to quote anyone else... or point to anyone else. It'll be you and Jesus... so you might as well bring it down to you and Jesus now.

III. Don't Think You Can Hide in Some Fuzzy Middle Ground

Matthew 16:16 "... You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

"I'm trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher but I do not accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a mad man or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* [New York: Macmillan, 1952], 40-41.

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one"

John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 26

You can reject Him, you can attack Him, or you can embrace Him... but you cannot ignore the claims of Jesus Christ and try to stand in some fuzzy middle ground.

IV. Don't Think You're Going to Figure This Out on Your Own

Matthew 16:17 "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Jesus is saying that you won't get to the bottom of this with sheer brain power! Believing that Jesus is the Son of God is the result of more than just intellect and study.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And start by reading the Bible. Don't read what people say about it... read IT for yourself... and read it slowly and prayerfully.

John 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

Jesus wants you to wrestle with this question...

- Who do you say that I am?