### Why This Series

Jesus who is All-Knowing, All-Seeing, and All-Powerful Constantly Asked Questions...

The Four Gospels Record About 339 Questions Asked By Jesus

Jesus Did Not Ask Questions To Get Information... There Was Always Something Deeper

- 1) To Teach Others by promoting THOUGHT and SELF-EXAMINATION
   2) To Nurture Deeper Conversations and Relationships
- 3) To Encourage People to come to their Own Conclusions, and Reveal Their Needs,
- 4) To Build FAITH and Draw People into a more Personal Understanding of Truth
  5) To Draw Out What Was Really In Their Hearts

Jesus' Questions Went Beyond Surface Dialogue They Were Intended To Go Beyond Words To Challenge Beliefs and Mindsets

So, In This Series We Will Study Some Of Jesus' Questions
To Engage In Deeper Conversations And See How They Can
Promote Deeper Thought And Spiritual Insight

# Week One Question: "Do You Want To Be Made Whole"

The Question Is Personal

The Question Challenges His Personal Desire

The Question Challenges His Personal Development

# Week Two

John 21:15 (NLT)

15 .... "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

The Priority Of Peter's Love

The Pride Of Peter's Love

The Personal Perspective Of Peter's Love

# Week Three Do You Still Not Understand?

Principle #1 ~ Our Focus Keeps Us From Understanding

Principle #2 ~ Our Faith Keeps Us From Understanding

Principle #3 ~ Our Forgetfulness Keeps Us From Understanding

# Week Four.... HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN HAPPENING?

Focus #1 ~ Don't Assume You Are Operating In Power, Demonstrate It

Focus #2 ~ God May Affect Something You Love To Bring You Into His Presence

Focus #3 ~ God May Be Using Your Situation To Give Victory
To Those Whose Weakness Is Not Visible



Faith Must Be Persistent

Faith Must Be Fully Persuaded

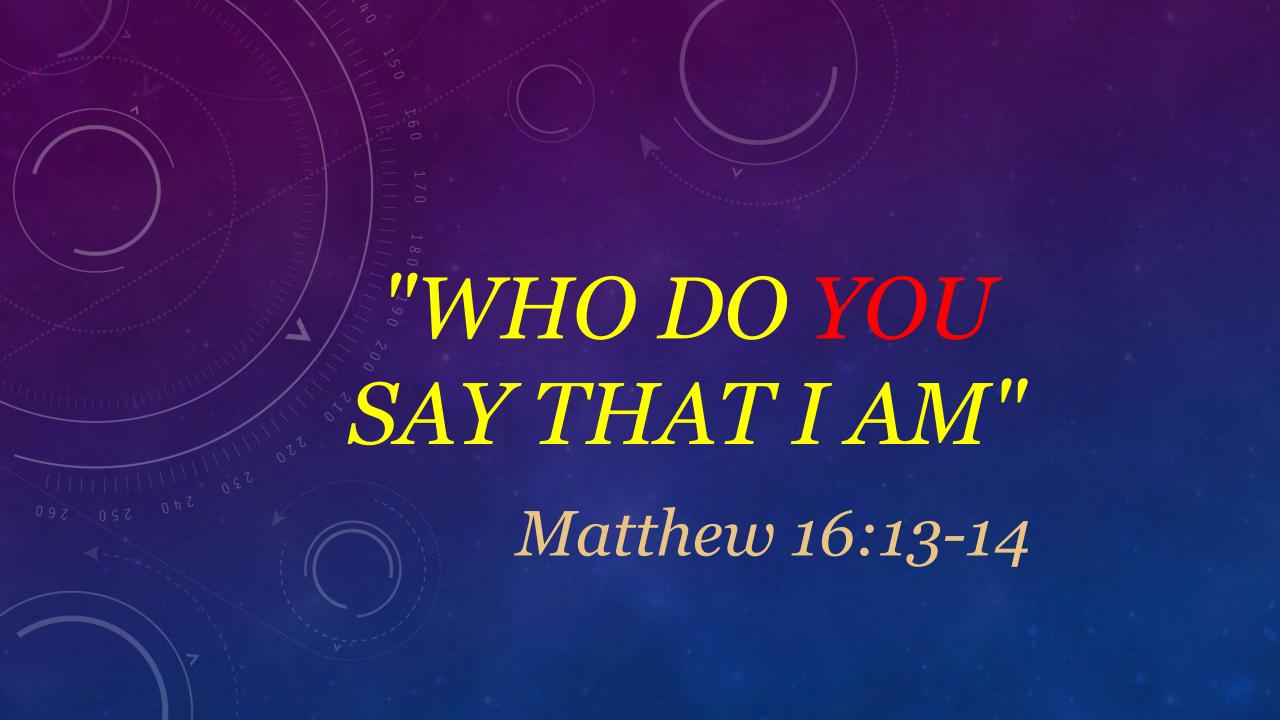
Faith Will Be Rewarded

## Last Week

Test Their Perspective Of The Impossible

Test Their Perspective Regarding The Insufficient

Teach Them About The Insignificant



# Matthew 16:13-16 (NKJV)

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi,
He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"
14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah,
and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
15 He said to them, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

16 Simon Peter answered and said,
"YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

#### Introduction

As we have discovered in this series, Jesus didn't ask "Who do men say that I am?" because He lacked information. He asked it TO REVEAL TRUTH, not to discover it.

Jesus challenged them and us, TO DECLARE WHAT WE TRULY BELIEVE and TO STAND FIRM IN IT
even when others misunderstood Him.

This question was not about CURIOSITY — it was TO REVEAL CONVICTION. CONVICTION is a deep, settled belief that shapes how you think, live, and respond —

At that point in His ministry, Jesus was well-known —
people had seen His miracles, heard His teaching, and felt His authority.
THEY HEARD THE MESSAGE, BUT DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MISSION
Likewise, God does not want us to continue to be in attendance but MISS OUR ASSIGNMENT

## Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly,

"I NEVER KNEW YOU, AWAY FROM ME, YOU EVIL DOERS!"

This shows that the crowds can admired Jesus, be willing to do things for Jesus BUT NOT YET RECOGNIZE HIS TRUE IDENTITY.

Introduction

Jesus is dealing with Perception vs. Perspective

Perception is how people see you It's shaped by rumors, emotions, and limited understanding.

Jesus wasn't worried about how people viewed Him; He cared about whether His disciples TRULY KNEW HIM.

DID THEY HAVE THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE

Perspective is the lens of understanding and revelation.

HE WANTED HIS DISCIPLES TO SEE/KNOW WHO HE TRULY WAS—

not through public opinion, but through DIVINE REVELATION.

Jesus was shifting them from public perception to SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

Perception Is Formed By Observation/Opinions ~ Perspective Is Formed By Revelation

Perception changes with crowds; Perspective stands on truth.

Jesus wasn't trying to shape HIS REPUTATION — He was REVEALING HIS IDENTITY.

# The Perception ~ What People Say

*Matthew 16:13-14 (NKJV)* 

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying,
"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

### Opinions were divided:

Some thought He was John the Baptist ~ risen from the dead...
A man that was willing to be martyred for what he believed in...

*Matthew 14:1-2 (NLT)* 

1 When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, heard about Jesus,
2 he said to his advisers, "This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead!

That is why he can do such miracles."

Try To Make The Messenger The Messiah

Others believed He was Elijah, the greatest prophet and teacher of his time.

Malachi 4:5 ~ "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives.

Others said Jeremiah or one of the prophets ~

Jesus was a prophet who was revealing some very important things about God and religion to men

This Reveals That Many People Will Have OPIONIONS.... BUT NOT TRUTH This Reveals That Many Have Respect For Christ But Fail To Recognize Him

## Perception Will Shape Your Perspective Luke 24:13-21 (NLT)

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.

15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them.

16 But God kept them from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, SADNESS WRITTEN ACROSS THEIR FACES.

18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

19 "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. 20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.

21 WE HAD HOPED HE WAS THE MESSIAH who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

## They Needed Their Hope Restored ~ How Would He Do That

Luke 24:27 (NLT)

27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

#### Luke 24:33-34 (NLT)

33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, 34 who said, "THE LORD HAS REALLY RISEN! HE APPEARED TO PETER."

## Perception Will Shape Your Perspective

If You Have The Perspective That Jesus Is A Spiritual Santa Claus
You Will Be Disappointed...

If You Have The Perspective That Jesus Is A Spiritual Bellhop You Will Be Disappointed

If You Have the Perspective That Jesus Will Keep You From Sickness And Suffering
You Will Be Disappointed

YOU MUST GET TO THE KNOW THE JESUS OF THE SCRIPTURES

## HOW YOU SEE GOD DETERMINES HOW YOU UNDERSTAND GOD, HOW YOU SEE HIM DETERMINES HOW MUCH YOU TRUST HIM

#### Example:

12 Spies saw the giants and perceived they couldn't win...so they said let's not go!!!

Joshua and Caleb heard what God said, and said LET'S TAKE THE LAND...

Saul and his army saw Goliath and perceived he was too big to defeat David knew God's Power and said he was too big to miss

If you perceive your struggles as punishment, your perspective becomes bitter.

But if you perceive your struggles as preparation, your perspective becomes stronger.

"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." — James 1:2–3

## The Perspective ~ A Personal Conviction

*Matthew 16:13-14 (NKJV)* 

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"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah,
and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He said to them, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

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Jesus' Goal Was To Lead His Disciples Into A Personal Revelation After exposing what others thought, Jesus made it PERSONAL

"YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

He wanted His disciples to move beyond secondhand beliefs into PERSONAL CONVICTION.

Jesus shifted the focus from what others say to what you believe.

YOUR FAITH must be anchored in who Jesus is, not what the world says.

#### John 20:24-28 (NLT)

24 One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came.

25 They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." 26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

28 "MY LORD AND MY GOD!" THOMAS EXCLAIMED.

## The Perspective ~ A Personal Conviction

*Matthew 16:13-14 (NKJV)* 

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

#### YOUR CONVICTION MUST BE SOLID....EVEN IF YOUR FAITH IS SHAKY

In Matthew 14

Peter stepped out in faith — but when he saw the wind, he began to sink... His conviction told him Jesus was Lord, but his faith faltered when fear rose up.

#### Matthew 16

Just moments after making a bold profession.... He says to Jesus..."That will never happen to you" Jesus says to him, "Get Behind Me Satan...You are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

#### Matthew 26

At the trial, fear overcame faith again. "I don't know the man."

If Your Conviction Is Strong, God Will Arrange Moments To Strengthen Your Faith Conviction anchors you, while your faith is being developed through testing.

Jesus saw stability in the same man who stumbled — because CONVICTION WAS ALREADY PLANTED.

Jesus can work with shaky faith — as long as it's anchored in strong conviction.

## Conviction Established The Foundation

*Matthew 16:16-18 (NKJV)* 

16 Simon Peter answered and said,
"YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

17 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.

The foundation of all Christian faith BEGINS WITH REVELATION — NOT RELIGION.

Peter didn't discover truth; it was revealed to him by God.

The Church is not built on personalities — it's built on revelation of Jesus' identity.

A Church That Functions Effectively Is One That KNOWS WHO CHRIST IS

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NLT)

11 For no one can lay ANY FOUNDATION other than the one we already have—JESUS CHRIST

That's why the Church is not a building — it's a community founded on the revelation of Christ.

The Church Is Doing Things By People Who May Not Know Who Jesus Is...

Church Can't Be Built On Personalities or Programs

It Is Established By This Profession: "JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD"

## In Conclusion

Perception Is Formed By Opinions and Human Observation

Perspective Is Formed Through Divine Revelation

Your Perception Can Shape Your Perspective

Your Conviction Must Be Solid, Even When Your Faith Is Shaky

The Conviction About Christ Established The Foundation Of His Church