



Study Guide

Luke 9:18-22

“Who Do You Say that I Am?”

Pastor Patrick Bowler
2-25-2024

Consult the Scriptures:

Luke 9:18-22

(Other Scripture referenced: Jn. 1:10-11; Gen. 3:14-15, 12:1-3, 22:15-18, 26:3-5, 28:12-14; Deut. 18:17-18; Ps. 110:1-4; 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Rom. 9:1-5; Mk. 8:33)

Consult the Scholars:

#1 James R. Edwards—

“Messiah would be mighty and wise in the Holy Spirit, endowed with miraculous powers, holy and free from sin, the final Anointed One and true king of Israel who would destroy God's enemies by the word of his mouth. He would deliver Jerusalem from the Gentiles, gather the faithful from dispersion, and rule and justice and glory.”

(James R. Edwards, The Pillar New Testament Commentary: Luke [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015], p. 271-272)

#2 James R. Edwards—

“To designate Jesus a new Moses or Elijah—or, as we often hear today, the greatest teacher or moral example whoever lived—is ultimately to deny his uniqueness, for it simply identifies him as the reemergence, or greater example, of an earlier prototype.”

(James R. Edwards, The Pillar New Testament Commentary: Luke [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015], p. 271-272)

C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)—

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: “I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't 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 a 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 madman 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, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001], p. 52.)*

Discuss:

1. Have you ever experienced looking for something for a long time simply because you had the wrong image in mind (e.g., wrong box or tote)? Share the story with your group.
2. Read Jn. 1:10-11 and discuss. How might this connect to the above illustration?
3. From the sermon, what was the Jewish understanding of the coming Messiah? In other words, who did they believe the Messiah would be and do? Read the #1 Edwards quote (above) and discuss. In what ways does Edwards’ description align with Jesus and in what ways does it differ?
4. Read Luke 9:18-20 and discuss. Why do the suggestions that the crowd offered concerning Jesus fall short (aside from the fact that they were just wrong)? See the #2 Edwards quote (above) and discuss. What is Edwards saying?
5. Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Why is this question significant? How might you answer that question yourself?
6. Read Luke 9:21-22 and discuss. Why did Jesus offer this response to their (i.e., Peter’s) confession? More specifically, why did Jesus charge them to not tell anyone? And then, why did Jesus say, “The Son of Man must suffer many things?” Why is this important?
7. Pastor Patrick said that who Jesus is matters. He said that who we understand Jesus to be directly affects how we follow Him. What did he mean? Why is that important?

8. What challenged you most about this week's sermon? What new insights did you take away? What questions do you still have?