

## WHO IS JESUS? (Mark 8:27-38)

*The answers to some questions are critical enough to have life-changing implications. The most critical question and subsequent answer for any and every person in the world is the one Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do you believe Jesus is?" How one answers that question not only has life-changing implications, but also determines his eternal destiny.*

### I. ANSWERING LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION (vv. 27-30)

1. Jesus asked the disciples what the crowds of people thought about Him: "Who am I?"
2. The average Jew thought Jesus was an incredible man.
  - They recognized the power of His preaching.
  - They knew only someone with divine blessings could perform the miracles He did.
3. Millions today still embrace some of those popular opinions.
  - But Jesus and the Apostles left us no such conclusions.
4. Jesus asked the disciples specifically: "What about you?"
  - Peter declared on their behalf: "God's Messiah."
  - Peter said, "The Christ, Son of the Living God."
    - The God/man prophesied to bring salvation and deliverance from sin.
    - The One who would pay the price for man's sin as the perfect divine sacrifice.
    - The One who would judge the living and the dead.
  - Their answer is the only answer that God accepts for eternal life.
    - Every person must believe this and rest their hope in this to be saved.

### II. LIVING OUT THE ANSWER TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION (vv. 31-38)

1. A wrong view of Messiahship will lead to a wrong view of discipleship.
2. Jesus tells us what we must understand and embrace if we are going to be His disciples.
  - Jesus next said that His disciples would have to carry a cross too.
  - Jesus states specifically that a believer must deny himself.
    - Cross-bearing is about self-denial and identification with the way of Jesus.
3. Denying oneself and carrying a cross is about living out the ethics of Christ in the marketplace, the community, the family, the world.
  - Cross-bearing means following Jesus' commands.
  - Genuine saving faith results in obedience to Christ.
    - Those who seek only to preserve, protect and promote themselves will lose everything in the end.
  - "The supreme goal for believers is not the development of their self-confidence by the betterment of their life perspective and situation, but following Christ no matter how severe the consequences." – John MacArthur

*Those who follow Christ may (and most likely will) suffer certain kinds of loss and hardship here on earth. However, the eternal consequences and rewards far outweigh the earthly cost! Who do you say that Jesus is? If you accept Him as Savior, you must deny yourself and follow Him as Lord.*