



The Life of Jesus (41)

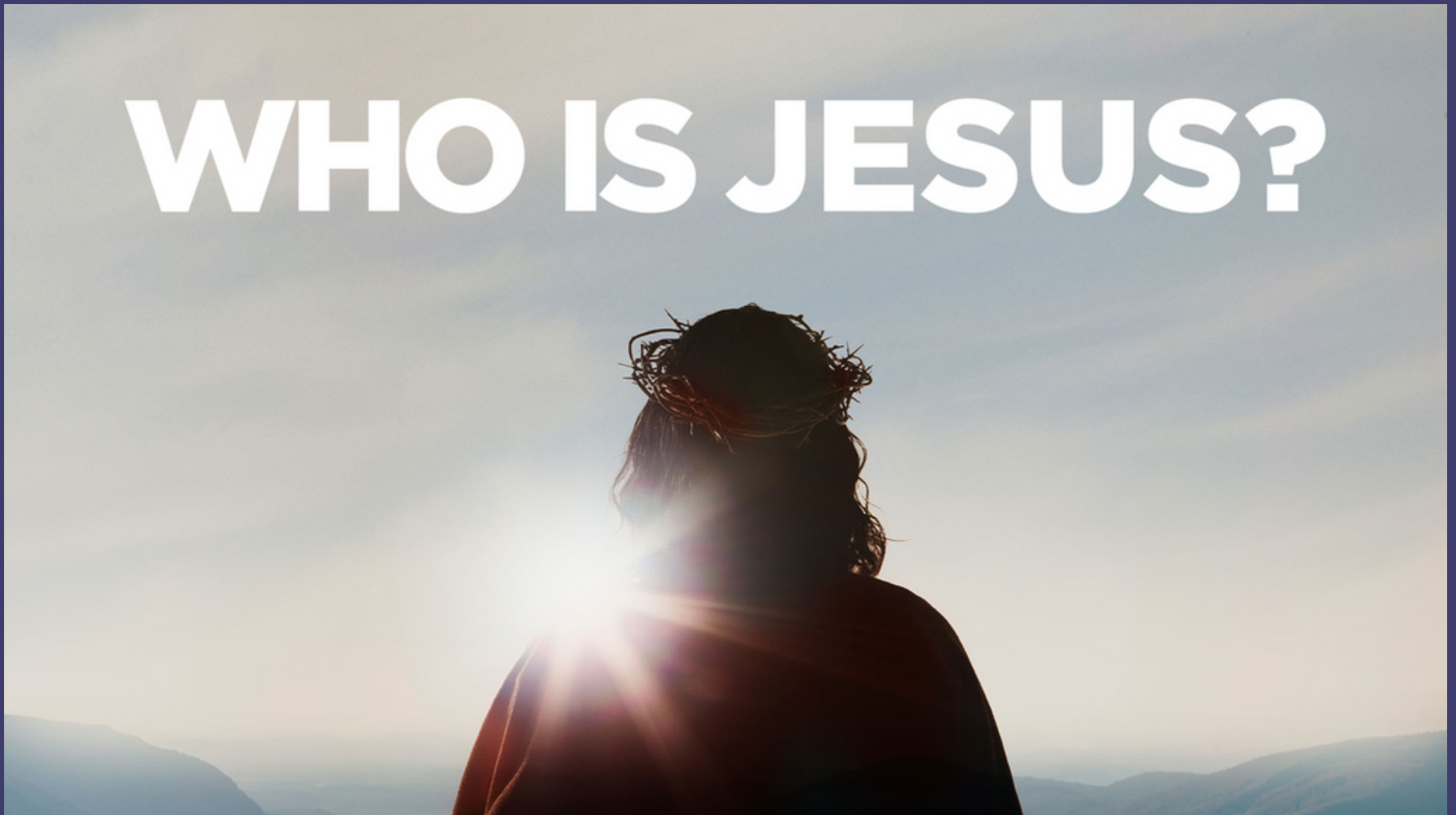
Who Do You Say
That I Am?



Matthew 16:13-16

#1 Who Is Jesus?

That's the all-important question the direction of our lives depends on because only Jesus has the power to save us.



Acknowledging the fact that a person named Jesus existed doesn't make someone a Christian. **What really matters is who we perceive him to be.**

There are many different answers or opinions of who Jesus is. But, not all of them are true. Then, how can we correctly answer who Jesus is?

#2 Who Do People Say the Son of Man Is?

Jesus took his disciples to the region of Caesarea Philippi. There, Jesus asked them,

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (Mt 16:13)

“Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” (Mt 16:14)

These opinions surely reflect their respect for Jesus. The opinions likely were the best thoughts they could think of.

There were many opinions, but most of them didn't reflect the truth of Jesus.



**OPINION
AND
TRUTH**

We can still miss who Jesus really is even though we have good, positive opinions about him. Saying Jesus is a good leader, teacher, or a good example are nice things to say about him. But we should know that Jesus is much more than that.

No matter what great, positive thoughts we have, if we fail to see him as the Son of God, Savior from sin and death, and the only way to the kingdom of God, we all are wandering away from the really important point.

#3 Who Do You Say I Am?

This is the most important question Jesus asks us now as well.

After asking who the people say he is, Jesus asked his disciples,

“But what about you? **Who do you say I am?**” (Mt 16:15)

Jesus asked this question, not out of mere curiosity but because **the answer was so important**. Jesus knew that he would be caught and crucified soon. The time was coming for Jesus to suffer and leave his disciples. So, **Jesus really wanted them to know who he truly was**.

There was nothing wrong with their answers because the people didn't see Jesus closely enough to know who he was.

However, the disciples' answer had to be different from other's opinions because they traveled with him, ate with him, lived with him, saw him perform numerous miracles, and were taught by him directly. They saw Jesus walk on water, heal the sick, and feed many people with a small amount of food. So, what did they learn about Jesus? What did they say about who Jesus is?

#4 Who Do You Say I Am?

Peter: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
(Mt 16:16)

This profession is the most important one we all must have concerning who Jesus is.

Who do you say that Jesus is in your life? What would you tell someone if they asked you about your faith in Jesus?

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1Pt 3:15)

Ever since Jesus came into the world, everyone who has heard about him has been forced to deal with who he is.

Even now, Jesus keeps asking us, ‘who do you think I am?’ He requires us to answer the question, and **our answer is so important that it will completely change the way we live our lives.** Who you profess Jesus is makes all the difference. Our salvation and eternal life depend on it.

Memory Verses

“But what about you? **Who do you say I am?**” “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Mt 16:15-16) (1)

“**Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1Pt 3:15) (1)

Questions

Why do you think it is important to have a clear, right answer to the question, who is Jesus? Who do you think Jesus is? How do you know? What would you say if your friends asked you to explain Jesus to them?