

What people say and what God says

Ponder: The true identity of Jesus

Scripture: “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” (Matthew 16:13b, NKJV).

Jesus was the talk of the town, to say the least. His amazing miracles, authoritative teaching, and unparalleled compassion resulted in His fame spreading like wildfire. Love Him or hate Him, everyone was talking about Jesus of Nazareth.

The Twelve had only recently returned from a preaching tour through the various Israelite cities. As they preached Christ’s gospel, they encountered people with all kinds of ideas about just who this Jesus was. Some thought He was John the Immerser. Herod Antipas had murdered John, but some, including the superstitious king himself, thought he had returned to life. Others thought Jesus was Elijah, Jeremiah, or another of the old prophets.

When Jesus asked, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter spoke up: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (16:15, 16). Where did he get this idea? “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (16:17). What a radical difference between what people were saying and what God had revealed!

What if Jesus asked us today, “Who do people say I am?” We would have to answer, “Some say You don’t exist. Others say You are one of many great religious teachers, or a brilliant philosopher, or an outstanding prophet.” And some might even say He is the Son of God without understanding all that is involved in that phrase. Being “the Son of God” means Jesus is, was, and always will be Deity (i.e. He is God).

So, if Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am,” what would your answer be? If you say He is the Son of God, as Peter did, you are acknowledging His Deity. That means He is Lord, and you recognize your duty to trust and obey Him 100%!

Is Jesus a great religious teacher? A brilliant philosopher? An outstanding prophet? Of course He is all of those things, but He is infinitely more! He is, indeed, the Son of God, eminently worthy of our trusting obedience and our loving devotion.

Who do you say Jesus is?

Song: “Jesus, Name Above All Names”