

OPEN

Are you more of a “just the facts” kind of person or do you want to know the backstory?

Mark 8:27-34

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “**Who do people say that I am?**” ²⁸ And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ And he asked them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

DISCOVER

Jesus uses questions to reveal what the disciples know and what they believe.

Why did the people believe Jesus might be ...

- John the Baptist (Mark 6:14-16)?
- Elijah (2 Kings 2:11; Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:17)?
- One of the prophets (Deut. 18:15-18; Matthew 16:14)?

“Christ” is the Greek translation of the Hebrew “Messiah”, which means “the anointed one” or “the one chosen.” What is “the Christ” chosen to do? See 2 Samuel 7:14–16; Psalm 2; Jeremiah 23:5–6.

Peter knows the right answer about who Jesus is, yet what do his actions reveal about what he knows and believes?

What four things does Jesus say will happen to Him? Which of these does Peter not hear?

How does Jesus begin to correct Peter’s understanding of how the Christ will accomplish his mission?

DEEPEN

Jesus uses questions to lead His hearers to a greater understanding of who He is and what He calls them to believe.

Why do you think Jesus first asks about the people’s view of Jesus before asking what the disciples believe?

How is Jesus' second question different from the first? How is the response a different kind of response?

Who do people today say that Jesus is?

Where do people today get their information about Jesus?

Who or what has shaped your beliefs about Jesus? Who do you say Jesus is?

DELIVER

Jesus calls His disciples to act on what He has revealed to them. The disciple responds in faith, trusting Him to accomplish His mission in and through them.

What does it look like in your life to daily "deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow" Jesus?

What do you do when you find that your actions are inconsistent with what you confess you believe?

How would you explain to a friend the difference between knowing about Jesus and confessing him as the Christ?

What ways can disciples today help others move from an inadequate view of Jesus to Jesus as the Christ?

PRAY

Share something you're thankful for and/or something you would like to see God change.

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"Lord, in your mercy ... hear our pray."

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