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WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Jesus did most of his teaching to just his disciples. The crowds pushed to hear him, but even with most of the parables, the explanations came when the “disciples” were with Jesus alone. Such was the case in Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus had just come into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi and asked his disciples a question: **“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”**

Jesus called himself the Son of man, which was very important. Why? Because it fulfilled the scripture. In order to redeem mankind back from Satan there had to be a redeemer. In order to be a redeemer there had to be a near kinsman, such as in the story of Ruth. It had to be a person with sinless blood to pay for the sin of mankind. This is why he called himself “Son of man”, instead of proclaiming his deity. Jesus had no blood in his veins from his mother. The blood type comes through the Father. In His case, there was no natural Father, only the Father of God. His blood was sinless, as the Son of man.

Who we believe Jesus is becomes the foundation of all Christianity. Many have said he was a prophet, some a good man, some say he was a teacher, but in Matthew 16:13 He asks, **“Who do men say that I the Son of man am?”** He put it to those that were closest to him. Their answers were interesting. V. 14 **“And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”** Interesting answer. Jesus presses the question further. In v. 15 he says: **“He saith unto the, But whom say ye that I am?”**

Did they truly understand who He was? Did they realize that he was the Mashiach (Messiah)? Peter speaks up right away in v. 16. **“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** That was quite a statement. In v. 17 Jesus responds with **“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, which is in heaven.”** Peter did not know it by natural means. The Father revealed who Jesus was to him.

Yes, Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one that the nation of Israel waited for yet did not recognize. He is the Son of man, yet the Son of God, and God the Son. Who we believe he is will determine our eternal existence. He revealed himself to the disciples, and He reveals himself to us. Holy Spirit draws us to Him, and when we come to the point that we accept him as Savior and our near kinsman redeemer, our lives change too. We become part of that family through adoption. We become “blood covenant” brothers and sisters with Him.

Who is Jesus? He is the foundation of all that we believe. He is Emmanuel; God with us. He is the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end. He is the author of life and the soon coming bridegroom for those that look for His coming.

Who do you say he is? Your answer will determine where you spend eternity. Choose wisely. There is no second chance after you leave this earth.