

Who Do You Say That I Am? And Does It Matter?

Mark 8:27-36

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew

MARK 8:27-36

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

I & II Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

I & II Thessalonians

I & II Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

I & II Peter

I, II & III John

Jude

Revelation

Three questions that grow out of this passage:

I. “Who do people say that I am?”

A. The people on the street ?

B. The various religious party lines today...



Jews

“Stated simply, the Jewish view of Jesus of Nazareth is that he was an ordinary Jewish man and preacher living during the Roman occupation of the Holy Land in the first century C.E. The Romans executed him, as well as many other nationalistic and religious Jews, for speaking out against Roman authority and abuses. Jews do not believe that Jesus was divine, the Son of God, or the Messiah prophesied in Jewish scriptures. He is seen as a "false messiah," meaning someone who claimed (or whose followers claimed for him) the mantle of the Messiah but who ultimately did not meet the requirements laid out in Jewish beliefs.”

About.com

Muslims

“Muslims have a great respect for Jesus the Messiah. [They believe that] he is one of the greatest prophets of Allah... Muslims sincerely believe that Jesus was born of a virgin mother... On the other hand, Muslims are genuinely opposed to the belief by Christians that (Jesus) was divine or ‘Son of God...’ The Christian view of incarnation seems to compromise God’s transcendence and sovereignty while at the same time exalting a mere man to God-like status.”

Badru Kateregga, [A Muslim And A Christian In Dialogue](#)

Jehovah's Witnesses

“Jesus never claimed to be God, but he acknowledged that he was the promised Messiah, or Christ. He also said he was ‘God’s Son,’ not God... He was a very special person because he was created by God before all other things. For countless billions of years, before even the physical universe was created, Jesus lived as a spirit person in heaven, and enjoyed intimate fellowship with his Father, Jehovah God, the Grand Creator... Then, about two thousand years ago, transferred his Son’s life to the womb of a woman, and Jesus came to be a human son of God, born in the normal manner through a woman.”

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

Mormons

“Christ was god before the earth existed. Through Him, God the Father created worlds without number. Nothing was created, except through Christ. In Mormon doctrine, the pre-mortal Christ is called “Jehovah.” When God speaks in the Old Testament, it is Jehovah that was speaking... The Plan of Salvation teaches that God the Father is the literal father of our spirits, and that as spirits, we lived with Him before we were born with physical bodies into mortal life on earth. Christ was the firstborn of the spirit children of God the Father, and was more intelligent and gifted than all...

Mormons

...Christ was chosen to save mankind by working out an infinite and eternal atonement—to come to this earth as the literal Only Begotten Son of God, and to put the whole plan of redemption, salvation, and exaltation in operation (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, ed. 2, p. 129).

Mormons believe that Christ has always been a separate person from God the Father.”

mormonbeliefs.org

Buddhists

“Certainly (Jesus) was many things--Jew, prophet, healer, moralist, revolutionary, by his own admission the Messiah, and for most Christians the Son of God and redeemer of their sins. And there is convincing evidence that he was also a Buddhist... The real historical question is not if he studied Buddhism, but where and how much he studied Buddhism, especially during his so-called "lost years." Historical accounts aside, many textual analyses indicate striking similarities between what was said by Jesus and by Buddha and between the prophetic legend of Jesus and ancient Buddhist texts...

Buddhists

...The conclusion is that, although not identifying himself as a Buddhist for good reasons, Jesus spoke like a Buddhist. The similarities are so striking that, even if no historical evidence existed, we can suspect that Jesus studied Buddhist teachings and that the prophecy and legend of Jesus was derived from Buddhist stories.”

thezensite.com

Christians

"We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Savior of the world, who has delivered us from the dominion of sin and reconciled us to God by humbling himself and becoming obedient unto death on a cross. He was declared to be Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church, the exalted Lord, the Lamb who was slain, coming again to reign with God in glory. "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Article 2, Confession Of Faith In A Mennonite Perspective

Three questions that grow out of this passage:

II. “Who do you say that I am?

A. Forget the party line. What does (your name) say?

B. Peter’s response: Jesus said, “This was not revealed to you by man, but by my father in heaven.” Matthew 16:17

C. Put your notes away.

D. You will be different than many others regardless of your answer. The goal is to be sure; to know why you believe what you do.

Three questions that grow out of this passage:

III. What difference does your belief make?

- A. If you do not believe, you have no chance of aligning yourself right with the ways of God and trusting God's plan.
- B. If you do believe Jesus is the Christ, it is still _____ to completely _____ God's plan.

John 12:44-46

Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.



Three questions that grow out of this passage:

III. What difference does your belief make?

- A. If you do not believe, you have no chance of aligning yourself right with the ways of God and trusting God's plan.
- B. If you do believe Jesus is the Christ, it is still difficult to completely trust God's plan.

Hebrews 5:11-14

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Three questions that grow out of this passage:

III. What difference does your belief make?

C. If you do believe Jesus is the Christ, you can hear and receive the correction of Jesus and be better for it.

- DENY YOURSELF...
- To do what comes naturally is to protect life as you know it.
- To lose your life for Jesus is to walk toward the plan of God.
- If you have never walked “away” to follow Jesus, check your path.

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”



A dark shadow of a person is cast onto a green lawn. The shadow is positioned on the right side of the frame, showing the head, shoulders, and arms. The person appears to be looking towards the left. The grass is a vibrant green, and the shadow is a deep, dark green/black.

**Reach
Teach
Care
Praise
Blaze**

Love God. Love your neighbor. And live.

You are invited to share hot drinks which will be available for 15 minutes following the conclusion of the worship service.



Aaron

Alison

Abbey

**This week be in special prayer for:
The Carey Family**