

Matthew 16:13-17: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Intro: Who is Jesus? This is the most important question you will ever ask & answer in your life. We see the answer to this question in our text today: a text that is one of the climaxes of the book of Matthew. It's about Jesus! - **J. C. Ryle:** There is one subject in religion about which we can never know too much. That subject is Jesus Christ the Lord.

1. Jesus Asks His Disciples What Other People Are Saying About Him

Matthew 16:13: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

a. Jesus and His disciples travel to Caesarea Philippi: This is the northern region near Mount Hermon – a primarily Gentile, non-Jewish area, 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee.

b. Jesus asks His disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?": Like God asking Adam in the Garden after he sinned, "Where are you?", Jesus asks questions to challenge, test, & teach His disciples: **John 6:5-6:** Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?"⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

c. Jesus calls Himself the Son of Man: "Son of Man" conceals (He's a man) and reveals (He's the divine figure Who has everlasting rule & dominion in Daniel 7).

d. Is this an arrogant question? "Hey everyone! What is everyone saying about me in the neighborhood?"
Jesus said: I am the bread of life (John 6:35-48); I am the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5); Before Abraham was I am; (John 8:58); I am the door (John 10:9); I am the good shepherd (John 10:11-14); I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25); I am the way, the truth and the life . . . (John 14:6); I am the true vine (John 15:1-5)

2. Jesus' Disciples Tell Him What Other People Are Saying About Him

Matt 16:14: & they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, & others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

This is amazing company that Jesus is included in: **a. John the Baptist: Matthew 11:11:** Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. (Preached repentance)

b. Elijah: Made a widow's flour & oil last so she had as much bread as she needed; he raised the widow's son from the dead; He confronted wicked King Ahab; through the LORD he defeated the Baal worshipers; Maybe most impressively, he did not die, but was taken up into heaven with chariots of fire & a whirlwind!

- **Matthew 11:14:** if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come (Malachi 4:5)

c. Jeremiah/one of the prophets: Hebrews 11:32-38: & what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David & Samuel & the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep & goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering about in deserts and mountains, & in dens and caves of the earth. (Like Jeremiah and the prophets, Jesus pointed out Israel's sins and called them to repent!)

But Jesus is greater still! He's in a class by Himself! Elijah was a sinner who needed a Savior; John the Baptist was a sinner who needed a Savior! Jeremiah & all the prophets were sinners who needed a Savior! It's not enough to believe Jesus was a wonderful, great man, even the greatest man who's ever lived. That's not enough-He's also God

3. Jesus Asks The Most Important Question You Will Ever Answer

Matthew 16:15: He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

This is the question of all questions! & the main point of everything we are reading in Matthew answers this! This is the climax of everything! Who is Jesus? **John 20:30-31:** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **GOSPEL!**

4. We Hear Peter's Faithful And True Declaration Of Who Jesus Is

Matthew 16:16: Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

a. Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ: "Christ" is a title, not Jesus' last name. It means "Anointed One" or "Messiah". Three offices in the Old Testament were anointed: Prophets (Holy Spirit); Priests; and Kings. Throughout Jesus time with Peter, God has revealed to Peter that Jesus is the promised Messiah – the preeminent Prophet, Priest, and King!

b. Peter confesses that Jesus is the Son of the living God: Jesus is God, but He's also God's Son. Son's have the same nature as their fathers. Adam, what is your nature? Human! John Owen, what is your nature? Human!

- **Hebrews 1:1-3:** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature

- **Hebrews 1:8:** But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever"

WCF 2.3: In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; **the Son is eternally begotten of the Father**; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

John 3:16; John 5:26: For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

c. Some people say Jesus was just a really good man: C. S. Lewis: A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

d. What you believe about Jesus really matters: David Platt: Who you say Jesus is will determine everything about how you follow Him. If you think Jesus was a good teacher, then you will follow Him like you would a good teacher. If you think Jesus merely had some good ideas, then you will listen to what He says every once in a while. If you think Jesus was a good example, then you will try to follow His example. However, if you believe that Jesus was and is the promised Messiah who came to the earth to save us from our sins, to conquer sin and death, and to reign and rule over all as Lord, then that changes everything about how you live. The church is made up of people who believe in *that* Jesus and know Him intimately. Do you know Jesus intimately?

- **Pastor:** If people in our churches attend only once or twice monthly, want the shortest meetings possible, have no appetite for prayer, and aren't interested in spiritual things, something is wrong. If they know more about how to use their phones than their New Testament but then say they want to go to heaven for eternity, we have to stop and ask ourselves, "What has my preaching and ministry produced?"

5. Only God The Father Can Reveal To People The True Identity Of Jesus

Matthew 16:17: And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

a. Jesus tells Simon-Peter, the son of Jonah, that he is blessed: To know who Jesus truly is & to confess who Jesus truly is & to believe who Jesus truly is & to trust, love, obey, & follow Jesus is the definition of what it means to be blessed! To be blessed is deep joy, deep happiness, deep satisfaction, all according to God’s definitions of joy, happiness, & satisfaction! It’s the opposite of being cursed! It’s to have God’s smile, approval, & blessing! It’s to have God sing over you with loud shouts of joy and delight! Peter is blessed by the best!

b. Jesus’ Father in heaven revealed this truth to Peter: Verse 17: For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

- **John 6:44:** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

- **Matthew 11:27:** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

God the Father drew Peter by showing him Who Jesus is. Jesus came preaching powerfully like no other; Jesus healed the sick; He cast out demons; He cleansed lepers; He forgave sins; He made the lame walk; He healed the withered hand; He calmed the storm; He called Himself the Bridegroom; He raised the dead; He fed thousands of people bread that He Himself created as the Good Shepherd; He opened deaf ears & blind eyes: Jesus is the Christ!

- **Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2:** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has **anointed me** to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, & the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor . . .

- **Jesus is the fulfillment of Daniel 9:25-26:** Know therefore & understand that from the going out of the word to restore & build Jerusalem to the coming of **an anointed one**, a prince . . . & after the sixty-two weeks, an **anointed one** shall be cut off & shall have nothing. **(Jesus is David’s great Son Who will sit on his throne forever!)**

And to accomplish all of this, Jesus, our Prophet, Priest, & King, was cut off and had nothing on that cross. He is the Prophet Whose mouth was shut up and silent before His murderers – Whose mouth cried out when He was forsaken by His Father – Whose mouth cried out “It is finished” when He accomplished all that His Father asked Him to do. He’s the Priest Who didn’t just offer sacrifices, but Who gave His very self up to be slaughtered for the sins of His people. He’s the King Who was humiliated, whipped, and beaten, stripped naked, spit upon, had a crown of thorns put on His head – the King Who was deposed in the most gruesome way. But He conquered it all and rose up from the dead! And because He rose, He’s the conquering, victorious, triumphant Christ in power!

In Jesus Christ we have the greatest Prophet Who speaks the Word of God to us; Who tells us all we need to know to live a holy and happy life; Who tells us how to be forgiven of our sins & how to be brought into a right relationship with God; Who is the very Word of God in the flesh!

In Jesus Christ we have the greatest High Priest Who lived the perfect life we should have lived so He could provide the perfect sacrifice for our sins & provide us with the perfect righteousness we need to stand before a holy God. He’s the Priest Who offered the sacrifice, was Himself the sacrifice, & He was made our sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. He’s the Priest Who rose up from the dead & ever lives to make intercession for us!

In Jesus Christ we have the great King Who provides for us all that we need and more; He protects us; purifies us; rules over us; conquers us with His beauty, grace, love, & mercy – & will conquer all of our enemies forever!

Walter Kaiser (The Messiah In The OT): He's the Seed of the woman Who crushed the Devils head!
He's the One through Whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed!
He's the bright and morning Star!
He's the great Prophet like Moses Who was to come!
He's the Witness!
He's the Redeemer!
He's the Mediator!
He's the Anointed One!
He's the Faithful Priest!
He's David's House, Throne, and Kingdom!
He's the Conqueror!
He's the Rejected Stone!
He's the Betrayed One!
He's the One Who died and was Resurrected!
He's the Great Bridegroom!
He's the Triumphant King!
He's the Teacher!
He's the Greater David!
He's the Coming Ruler!
He's born of a virgin!
He's Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!
He exercises universal triumph!
He's the Foundation Stone!
He's the Servant of the LORD!
He's the Proclaimer of Good News!
He's the LORD our Righteousness!
He's the Priestly King!
He's the Yes and Amen to all of God's inviolable promises!
He's the Good Shepherd!
He's the Unifier of the Nation!
He's the Son of Man!
He's the Coming Anointed Ruler!
He's the Desire of the Nations!
He's the Signet Ring!
He's the preeminent High Priest!
He's the Pierced One!
He's the Rejected One!
He's the Smitten Companion!
He's the Messenger of the Covenant!
He's the Sun of Righteousness Who rises with healing in His wings!

And because He's all this & more – because He's the Christ – we turn to Him from sin! Because He's the Christ – we stay married – we love our spouses – we love our children & bring them to church & teach them about Jesus!

Because He's the Christ – we may change our phone number and get rid of our computer! Because He's the Christ – we don't get jealous of one another: in ministry, family, stuff/possessions, wives, position, power, money, etc.

Because He's the Christ – we tell the truth on our tax returns, even if we'll lose a lot of money! Because He's the Christ – we fight to turn from lust and pornography! Because He's the Christ – we love one another deeply, not judging one another or talking about a person in ways we would not if the person were present! Because He's the Christ, we make His church a priority in our lives!

Because He's the Christ – we fight for joy in Him more than in anything else in this life! Because He's the Christ – we hold on to everything in this life with a loose grip – we are generous – we give! Because He's the Christ, we love lavishly, repent often, humble ourselves before one another, and submit to one to another!

Because He's the Christ – we long for lost sinners to know Him – we long to make disciples! And Because He's the Christ, when we fail at all of these exhortations, He stands lovingly ready to forgive us when we turn to Him!

Do you know Him as the Christ? Al Martin: You can teach a parrot to say: “Jesus is the Christ!”

Jesus' Sacrifice More Than Sufficed; With Love And Beauty He Enticed; And Above All He Is The Christ!

The question of all questions to every generation
“Who do you say that I am?” is Jesus’ exact quotation
How you answer sets your eternal destination
Deny He’s Messiah and suffer condemnation
Or confess Him as Christ for a glorious salvation
If you get it right, it’s His Father’s holy revelation
So bow down to Him and worship in admiration!

John the Baptist was a bold, great man
Of those born of woman none's greater than
But there's still one Whose glory span
Can't be contained since time began
Christ will finish God's perfect plan
For He's the only One Who can
May in our hearts a flame He fan
For truly He's the greatest Man!

Elijah even raised the dead
And helped the widow bake her bread
But he himself was never dead
We need another in our stead
Who for our sins His blood was shed
And o'er our foes His feet would tread
A crown of thorns set on His head
For our salvation He has bled
And rose alive just as He said
To all the world salvation spread
He is the Christ our Living Bread!

He's the great anointed Prophet Who spoke God's Word
He's the greatest voice you've ever heard
His speech was clear and always stirred
He told the truth and never slurred
This awesome Gospel He conferred
Our sins to Him were all transferred
God's wrath upon Himself incurred
Up from the grave He rose the third
Now lives forever undeterred
For He alone's the living Word!

He's the great anointed high Priest
Who offered Himself and not a beast
He offered the offering and became the least
He was the offering so evil ceased
Now His death is our glory feast
And He's no longer dead deceased
But lives – His beauty still increased
And removes our sins far as west to east!

He's the great anointed, reigning King
Of all power He's the spring
He's never done one evil thing
But to you salvation He can bring
No matter what your sin or fling
If to Him alone by faith you'll cling
He'll raise you up – give your heart wing
And make your tongue forever sing!

Christ Jesus Is The God Who Came
His Church To Build, His Holy Aim
He Is The Christ Peter'd Exclaim
This Rock The World Shall Never Tame
He's Son Of God We Must Proclaim
He'd Die, Bear All God's Wrath In Shame
To Take Our Sin And Curse And Blame
Then Rise Again His Bride To Claim
The Gates Of Hell He'd Crush And Maim
By Faith Alone, Not Sweetest Frame
We're Justified, Never The Same
All For Christ's Everlasting Fame
To The Praise Of His Holy And Beautiful Name!