

**Mark 8:27-30, Matthew 16:13-19, Luke 9:18-20**  
**Peter's Confession: You Are the Christ!**

**Introduction**

1. Who are you?
2. The Most Serious Question: Who is Jesus?

**Main Idea Spiritual blindness must be graciously, and triumphantly overcome by God to see Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One of Israel. Spiritual sight permits the one who has it to confess Jesus is God the Son, the second Member of the Trinity, the One promised in the Old Testament, the One who fulfills all the promises of God, the Conquering King and Suffering Servant who at the Cross satisfactorily absorbed God's wrath as a propitiatory sacrifice, appeasing the wrath of the Father toward sinners, dying as a substitute for His sheep so that their sins would be forgiven and that they would have eternal life.**

**The Review**

1. The ignorant Jewish Crowds in the Feeding of the 5,000 were blind, spiritually, trying to force Jesus to be king apart from God's design
2. The obstinate Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians were spiritually blind, seeking Jesus to destroy Him
3. The loyal disciples were spiritually blind unable to perceive and understand the significance of Jesus' purpose and identity

**Ignorance is Not Bliss (Mark 8:27-28, Luke 9:18-19, Matthew 16:13-14)**

1. Jesus asks a serious question: Who do people say the Son of Man is?
  - a. John the Baptist – a rumor begun by Herod's paranoia, believing Jesus to be John the Baptist raised from the dead (**Matt 14:1-2**)
    - i. Jesus spoke with authority and power like John
    - ii. Fearless, calling people to repent, the coming of the Kingdom
  - b. Elijah – performed miracles, a fiery preacher, did not die and promised to return (**2 Kings 2, Malachi 4:5**)
    - i. Elijah would be the forerunner of the great & terrible Day of the Lord – they believed Jesus was Elijah returned
  - c. Jeremiah or other prophets – sent from God, spoke God's Truth
2. They see Jesus as extraordinary, worth listening to, until He says something hard, something disagreeable or demands something of them
3. Is it honorable to the Lord to equate Him with these great men? Is Jesus just one great man among others?
4. The Lord is not impressed with ignorance of who He is and He is not honored by vague notions of who He is
  - a. The Jews: Jesus was not the Messiah, even though He was a rabbi
  - b. The Muslims: Jesus was born of a virgin, coming back again, but only a prophet of God, not the Messiah
  - c. The Bahai: Jesus was a wise teacher, a miracle worker, crucified, resurrected, is human and divine, like all of God's manifestations
  - d. Buddhism: Jesus was an enlightened holy man, a wise teacher

- e. New Age Religions: Jesus was wise and moral teacher
  - f. Jehovah's Witnesses: Jesus was A god
  - g. Mormons: Jesus a human who achieved godhood
  - h. Every one of these religions see Jesus as a creature, not Creator
4. The Jews believed Jesus was a mere man, the son of Joseph (**Lk 4:22**)
  5. The spiritually blind think they honor Jesus by admiration and nice compliments; denying Jesus' purpose and identity is not impressive
  6. The Crowds see Jesus as the forerunner, the pointer, not the point

**Sovereign, Divine Disclosure (Matthew 16:15-17, Luke 9:20, Mark 8:29)**

1. Jesus asks His disciples, and us, "Who do you say that I am?"
2. Mark: This is the climax of his gospel – everything has been building to this point
3. Peter speaks for the disciples: You are the Christ! Son of God!
4. Jesus is the Christ, Meshiach, Anointed One
  - a. The Anointed One was promised throughout the OT who would be an intercessor and mediator, a great High Priest who would have an eternal throne, and an eternal throne
  - b. In the OT, only kings, priests, and prophets were anointed, and never three offices in one person
    - i. Melchizedek – A Priest-King, not a prophet
    - ii. Moses – A Prophet-Priest, not a king
    - iii. David – Prophet-King, not a priest
    - iv. Jesus – Prophet, Priest, and King
5. Luke: wants to make sure the reader knows the identity of Jesus, as Savior, and Son of the Most High God
6. Peter is the first human to call Jesus the Christ, even though He did not fully grasp what he was saying
7. The disciples were blind to Jesus being the Christ in the boat, and now Peter, speaking for all of the disciples, declares Jesus the Messiah
8. Why does Peter now see Jesus' true identity?
  - a. Negatively, Flesh and Blood did not reveal this. What is this?
    - i. Ordinary, human body and nature (**1 Corinthians 15:50**)
    - ii. Paul does not consult with man (**Galatians 1:15-17**)
    - iii. Humanistic, non-spiritual forces in the world (**Ephesians 6:12**)
    - iv. Jesus took on a human nature to become a man in order to destroy the power of death, the devil (**Hebrews 2:14**)
    - v. The eyes of Peter were spiritually blind because the natural self or any other human can't reveal to the soul the identity of Jesus
  - b. Positively, Jesus affirms that only the Father in Heaven can reveal the identity of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God
    - i. Something greater than flesh and blood must reveal, give sight, open eyes, and create the light to come on in the soul
    - ii. The Father reveals Jesus, not the preacher or yourself
    - iii. This revelation is called Regeneration or New Birth (**John 3**)
      - i. Jesus told Nicodemus he could not see nor enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born again
  - c. Peter, and anyone who believes in Jesus as the Christ had their blind eyes opened by the Father's revelation of Jesus Christ to them