

## QUESTIONS OF JESUS: Week 1 // *But who do you say I am?*

- The key to wisdom is this: constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question, and by questioning we arrive at the truth. —Peter Abelard (1079-1142 AD), French philosopher, theologian, and poet

**John 1:14 NIV: 14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- But who do you say I am?

**Matthew 16:13-19 NIV: 13** When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” **14** They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15** “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

- We can become so intent on dispelling any negative opinion of God our energies are directed more towards promotion than devotion.
- “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God.” —AW Tozer (1897-1963)
- If we’re more conscious of law and sin than His grace, we make our defining of Christ more about our shortcomings than His overcoming, which is pious misdirection. Right belief leads to right living, never the other way around.

**Romans 5:20-21 NIV: 20** The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, **21** so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- “I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God. By God Himself, it is not! How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important... The promise of glory is the promise, almost incredible and only possible by the work of Christ, that some of us, that any of us who really chooses, shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God . . . to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness . . . to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is. —C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory* (1941)

- Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen. –Book of Common Prayer