



**Sermon Series:** It's All About Jesus

**To be used with Session 3: The Identity of Jesus**

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** What Jesus Demands

**Scripture:** Luke 9:18-26

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study “It’s All About Jesus” this sermon shows how Jesus invites us to identify with Him. His role as Messiah, His resurrection as monarch, and His requirements for the mission; are all outlined in this passage. In this message, we will learn ***How to See Him, How to Seek Him, and How to Serve Him.***

**Introduction:** Matthew wants the reader to know that Jesus is was Messiah. Mark wants us to know that He is a Miracle-Worker. John wants us to know that He is the Master, but Luke wants us to know that Jesus is on Mission. His Mission was to make devoted disciples. Devoted disciples identify with Christ and reproduce faithful followers of Christ. This passage teachers us that Christ wants us to be and build faithful disciples that live on mission for Him.

**1. Jesus Demands Acknowledgement (v. 18-20)**

Christ’s lead-in question about what others said about Him was connected to His question about how His disciples saw Him. Peter hit the nail on the head and professed that Jesus is the Messiah. This is what Jesus wants from us, He wants us to acknowledge Who and What He is. In terms of “Who,” Jesus is God in the flesh. In terms of “What,” Jesus is the Son of God who came to save, sanctify, and secure all who are lost in their sins. This speaks to our perception and practice. We must see Him as Lord and proclaim Him as Savior. In doing so, we are faithfully acknowledging Him.

**2. Jesus Demands Acceptance (v. 21-22)**

This passage teaches us that we must not only acknowledge the superiority of His life, but we must also accept the sufficiency of His death. The believer must see Christ’s death as sufficient to deliver the payment for our sin (Is. 53:5-7), to deflect the punishment for our sins (I. John 2:1-2), and to destroy the power of our sins (Rom. 6:1-4; 8:1-4). Christ died in our stead, Christ died to appease the wrath of God, and Christ died to give us the victory over our sins. To be saved—we must accept His death and resurrection as sufficient for

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salvation, and to grow spiritually—we must keep accepting His death and resurrection as sufficient for sanctification.

### **3. Jesus Demands Allegiance (v. 23-26)**

This passage teaches us that the Christian life demands: Denial, Devotion, and Discipleship. We must deny ourselves by surrendering to Christ (Rom. 12:1), by selling out to Christ (Rom. 12:2), and by submitting to Christ (Luke 6:46). We meet the demand of devotion by taking up our cross daily. This speaks to living sacrificially in our loving (Matt. 22:35-40), in our lifestyles (Gal. 2:20), and in our labors (2 Tim. 2:1-6). We meet the demand of discipleship “follow me” as we seek to emulate Christ (Eph. 5:1-14) and replicate for Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). May the Lord help us meet the demand of being faithful reproducing disciple-making disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** If we saw a police officer who watched a crime being committed but didn’t do anything about it, we would say, he is a bad police officer. If we saw a fireman looking at a burning building, but didn’t try to put the fire out, we would say that he is an untrustworthy fireman. If we knew a doctor who wouldn’t seek to help a sick person, we would probably think that he is not a real doctor. Well, when the world sees Christians who are not living up to Christ’s demands of acknowledgment, acceptance, and allegiance, they are saying, we are probably not real Christians. Let’s labor to not let it be said or thought about us.

#### **Author Bio**

*Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis TN. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.*

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