

WHO IS JESUS?

A blue speech bubble containing the text "talk it over". "talk it" is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, and "over" is in a white, cursive script font.

Key Scripture-

Mark 8.23-27

Takeaway- Jesus is our identity.

GROW-

1 Kings 17.1; 18.16-46 // Malachi 4.5 // Matt 11.11

LIVE-

Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

"Some say John the Baptist..." a man Scripture describes as a sign of the coming Messiah, and a man Jesus said none were greater (Matt 11.11). John called his followers to repent, or have a change in thinking, that would lead to a change in behavior, and ultimately result in living a life that would glorify God.

"... others say Elijah..." a prophet of the Lord in the Old Testament, and hero of the Jewish faith. He predicted a famine in Israel (1 Kings 17.1), and defeated the prophets of Baal in the test of whose God would set fire to the altar (1 Kings 18.16-46). Malachi wrote, "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord..." Those who believed Jesus to be this coming Elijah, missed that it was actually John the Baptist who fulfilled the role.

"... and still others, one of the prophets." In Jesus' day, a prophet was simply a person who received a message(s) from God to tell to His people. It was a title given to an individual who was called by God to speak for Him, and call people back to His way of living.

LOOK-

What is your identity?

Is your identity based on what you do? Or is it based on who you are?

LOVE-

Jesus' identity is greater than pastor, prophet, preacher, or teacher. He is all of those things, and at the same time more. He is more than a pastor who protects, provides, feeds, and shelters a flock. More than a preacher who delivers a message, or proclaims a word. He is more than a teacher who delivers solid moral advice, or leads people into a greater version of themselves. Jesus' identity is the Messiah. An identity that reaches beyond a title, or a label, but to the very trajectory of what He would do. And yet what He accomplished did not define Him as Messiah. He did not earn the Name after completing a list of tasks. He is Messiah, and always has been. It is because of who He is that He was able to accomplish what He did. Not the other way around. And who He is defines who we are. We are Christians; little Christs. Sons and daughters of God. Jesus is our identity.