

Who is He?

Matthew 16:13-20

In our scripture Jesus and his disciples were on vacation, in the district of Caesarea Phillipi. Jesus had been teaching and working miracles for the people and now they were getting some well needed rest from the crowds that followed more and more for his words and his great deeds. The conversation started pretty generally: Who do people say that the Son of Man is? The answer was familiar:

Jesus' disciples baptized those who became Jesus' followers, so some said Jesus was John the Baptist. They thought John had risen from the dead and that God had given him John's authority and even added the gift of miracles and healing to that power.

Other said Jesus was Elijah – one of Israel's greatest prophets, the miracle worker of antiquity. Elijah was the one who prayed and there was a famine for three and a half years, he came to a town and a family and he ate off a small amount of meal and oil for many months and it was never depleted. He prayed and life was returned to a dead child. Elijah was so blessed by God that a chariot of fire was sent to take him to heaven. So some people thought Jesus was the resurrected Elijah.

Some people thought Jesus was the resurrected Jeremiah, the great prophet call to his work before he was born. Jeremiah was the weeping prophet and the people knew that Jesus had been seen weeping for the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

Then Jesus asked "But who do you say that I am?" Peter's historic confession of faith at Caesarea Philippi stands as one of the great affirmations of faith: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Peter's flash of insight may be compared

with others who addressed Jesus as "Lord," "Teacher," or even "Son of David" (Matt. 9:27)—of Jesus' unique identity:

- a disruptive man with an unclean spirit called: "I know who you are, the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24)
- demons shouting as they come out of many afflicted persons: "You are the Son of God!" (Luke 4:41)
- John the Baptist said: "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)
- Samaritan villagers, after being introduced to Jesus by the woman who had met him at the well said: "We know that this is truly the Savior of the world" (John 4:42)

The biblical witness gives 50 names and titles for Jesus:

- 1. Almighty One** – *"...who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* Rev. 1:8
- 2. Alpha and Omega** – *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."* Rev. 22:13
- 3. Advocate** – *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."* 1 John 2:1
- 4. Author and Perfecter of Our Faith** – *"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* Heb. 12:2
- 5. Authority** – *"Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'" Matt. 28:18*

6. Bread of Life – *“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’”*

John 6:35

7. Beloved Son of God – *“And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Matt. 3:17*

8. Bridegroom – *“And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.” Matt. 9:15*

9. Chief Cornerstone – *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.” Ps. 118:22*

10. Deliverer – *“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” 1 Thess.1:10*

11. Faithful and True – *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.” Rev.19:11*

12. Good Shepherd - *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11*

13. Great High Priest – *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” Heb. 4:14*

14. Head of the Church – *“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.” Eph. 1:22*

15. Holy Servant – *“...and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30*

16. I Am – *“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” John 8:58*

17. Immanuel – *“...She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'” Is. 7:14*

18. Indescribable Gift – *“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” 2 Cor. 9:15*

19. Judge – *“...he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.” Acts 10:42*

20. King of Kings – *“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” Rev. 17:14*

21. Lamb of God – *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29*

22. Light of the World – *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*

23. Lion of the Tribe of Judah – *“Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” Rev. 5:5*

24. Lord of All – *“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:9-11*

25. Mediator – *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim. 2:5*

26. Messiah – *“We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).” John 1:41*

27. Mighty One – *“Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.” Is. 60:16*

28. One Who Sets Free – *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

John 8:36

29. Our Hope – *“...Christ Jesus our hope.” 1 Tim. 1:1*

30. Peace – *“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,” Eph. 2:14*

31. Prophet – *“And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” Mark 6:4*

32. Redeemer – *“And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.” Job 19:25*

33. Risen Lord – *“...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

34. Rock – *“For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” 1 Cor. 10:4*

35. Sacrifice for Our Sins – *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10*

36. Savior – *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

37. Son of Man – *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10*

38. Son of the Most High – *“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32*

39. Supreme Creator Over All – *“By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together....” 1 Cor. 1:16-17*

40. Resurrection and the Life – *“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25*

41. The Door – *“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10:9*

42. The Way – *“Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life.”** No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6*

43. The Word – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1*

44. True Vine - *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.” John 15:1*

45. Truth – *“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32*

46. Victorious One – *“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” Rev. 3:21*

47. – 50. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Is. 9:6*

Jesus.

Jesus’ question still comes back to each of us: Who do you say that he is? Do our relationships and our interactions with one another show who he is in our lives? Does how we prioritize our lives tell others who he is to you? Does how we spend our money and time demonstrate who Jesus is? I ran across this reading in my meditation time last week and I share it as we close: Does who Jesus in your life make you dynamic, life-giving, life-filled, creative? As members of the church of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God, do we love as Jesus loves? We

become the church when we show love, participate, contribute, do our part. Do our words and our actions say that Jesus is Lord of your life? Who is he to you? Is he the Messiah, the son of the living God?