

Life surfaces many questions for us. What is the most important question you have sought to answer?

Jesus took the disciples to Caesarea Philippi. The area was covered with idols used in worshiping a variety of gods. Jesus asked two questions regarding the way people saw him and what the disciples thought about him. The second question may easily be life's ultimate question. Let's explore these questions. Once you have answered the questions, seek to determine how your life confirms your answer.

### 1. What Do Others Think?

*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

*Matthew 16:13-14*

The simple question of Jesus sought more than information. Jesus was seeking to get the disciples to enunciate the thoughts playing in their minds.

What were other people thinking about Jesus? No one need lose face over the answer. Anyone could offer an idea. The first response turned to *John the Baptist*, the preacher calling everyone to repent and change their ways. The second reached back in history to the great prophet *Elijah*. *Elijah* had worked miracles and Jesus had worked miracles. Was there a connection? The third possibility appeared to be *Jeremiah*, the prophet of hope. Everyone was hoping to find a way to escape the Roman occupation. Finally, someone suggested Jesus was *a prophet*, with a message of correction and guidance.

Who do the people in your life think Jesus is? How do their answers affect the way they live?

### 2. What Do You Think?

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

*Matthew 16:15-16*

Jesus meets us in the familiar places. Perhaps the things that own our attention surround us. His probing question stops us in our tracks.

*Who do you say I am?* Before you answer that question, think carefully. What do you believe about Jesus? What evidence supports your answer?

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

*Matthew 16:16*

Jesus met Peter at the point of his faith expression. Ultimately, our answer to Jesus' question must be our own answer, not the answer we are quoting from someone else.

Peter's answer presented Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one. The anointed one has often been pictured as an authoritative prophet (*Matthew 7:28*), as a mediator (*1 Timothy 2:5, 6*) and as the king (*Revelation 19:6*).

*The Son of the living God... is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation...in him all things hold together...For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.*

*Colossians 1:15, 17, 19*

We believe Jesus to be fully God and fully human. All of God meets all of humanity in Jesus.

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

*Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."*

*John 14:6*

*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*

*1 John 4:9*

Who is Jesus to you?

How do you answer when Jesus asks, "Who am I to you?"

How does your life back up your words?

