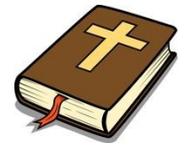


Who do you say that I am?

Simon Peter,
often the
spokesman for



God is "I AM
WHO I AM."
Exodus 3:14;
John 8:58

the group of disciples, answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." What was the question that caused him to respond and be blessed by Jesus? It was simply this: Who do you say that I am? Jesus spoke these words to focus the faith of his disciples. He had asked others about His identity, but now He searched for an expression of their faith. Who do **you** say that I am? Please read Matthew 16:13-20.

Simon Peter identified Jesus as "the Christ." In addition, he called Jesus "the Son of the living God." First, he recognized Him as their long-anticipated Messiah. "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word "Messiah." It signified that He was the One whom God had chosen to be His "anointed One." Second, "the Son of the living God" was also a messianic title, but with deeper meaning (2 Samuel 7:14; Psalms 2:7; 89:26-27; Hebrew 1:5-14). Some of the disciples had previously acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God (John 1:49; Matthew 14:33). "The living God" is a statement about the unique relationship Jesus had with God.

Jesus pronounced a "blessing" upon Peter because this statement had not been revealed to him by men (flesh and blood) but by "the Father who is in heaven." In the New Testament, the phrase "flesh and blood" does emphasize the weakness of mankind (1 Corinthians 15:50; Galatians 1:16; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 2:14). The fact that truth was revealed by the Father may refer to the teaching and miracles done by Christ (Matthew 11:25-26). Jesus made it clear that His message and mission originated from God (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-39; 7:16). Therefore, Peter's observation concerning the ministry of Jesus may have led him to identify Him as "Christ, the Son of God" (John 6:69). Another possibility is that the Holy Spirit directly imparted this truth to Peter. After all, the days following these were the age of inspiration (2 Peter 1:20-21). God still reveals the identity of Jesus to people today, but He does it through His inspired Word (Romans 10:13-17). Will you and I share His Word?

Jesus asks: "Who do **you** say that I am?" What is your answer? The answer will determine your "history." Will **you** be blessed?

Faithfulness in little things is a great thing.

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: TODAY!

Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM; DVD about denominational error...

Gospel Meeting: at Central church of Christ, "**Living for the Lord!**" speaker John Curtis, November 10-13 at 7PM.