

St. John's Baptist Church
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Who is Jesus in The Word? Who is Jesus in The World? Who is Jesus in The Work?

Introduction: In Matthew 16:13-17 Jesus inquires of the disciples "who do people say I am?" Today, Jesus is known to us in many ways. We know Jesus as fully God and fully Man. Jesus is referred to as the Son of God and the Son of Man. As the Son of God, Jesus is God's special chosen one. Jesus is God wrapped in flesh and come to Earth. As Son of Man, Jesus is referenced by an Old Testament prophetic references (Ezekiel 37:11, Daniel 8:17, Psalms 144:3) as God spoke to and commanded the prophets. Jesus is thus known in the Word, World, and Work as both human and divine.

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 16:15

Memory Scriptures: 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Background: The question in the scripture Matthew 16:15 describe the starting point of our belief in Jesus as Christ. It describes how we view Him in the Word, how we depend on Him in the World, and how we serve Him in the Work to which he as called us.

Lesson Content: Who is Jesus in the Word?

Jesus is God's intention and reality in the Word to give us a vision of the Kingdom of God (God's rule over the world).

Lesson Content: Who is Jesus in the World?

Jesus is God's intention and reality for the world/humanity to be drawn toward what God intended.

Lesson Content: Who is Jesus in the Work?

Jesus is God's intention and reality to carry out the work/mission for the redemption, salvation, and eternal life for ourselves and others.

Jesus in the Word, World, and Work can be described in Luke 4:18-19:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Summary:

It is so critical to know and act upon who Jesus is in His Word, in His World, and in His Work. It is not about us, but it is all about Jesus. Jesus is our Lord, Savior, and standard for all we think, say, and do.

Questions for Reflections

1. Jesus speaks to every generation with the question, "But who do you say I am?" How did your mother or father respond to this question?
2. How will your children (if you have a child(ren)) respond to this question?
3. If Jesus spoke to you and asked, "But, who do you say I am?" What would your response be?

References: Robert C. Linthicum, Building a People of Power: Equipping Churches to Transform Their Communities (Waynesboro, GA, World Vision Press:2005)