

Do You Know Who Jesus Is?

Sermon Title: **Do You Know Who Jesus Is?**

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

And today, we will be reading from the Book of Matthew the First Book of the New Testament and the 16th Chapter, the verse that you've heard many times before, Verses 13 through 20 of the 16th Chapter of the Book of Matthew, the King James Version. And it reads "When Jesus came into the Coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, 'Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?' And they said, 'Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.' He saith unto them, 'But whom say ye that I am?' And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.' And I say also unto thee, 'That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ."

And for a few minutes today, I want to just talk to you from the subject. Do you know who Jesus is? Do you know who Jesus is? Just turn to the person next to you and just ask him, "Do you know who Jesus is?"

Jesus asked the disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" If you noticed there, he did not say, "Whom do men say that I the Son of God?" He said, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" There is a difference between the human portion and the divine portion. All of us are mixtures of dust and divinity. And there was a part that men knew of Jesus and they could see the man part. But there was another part of Jesus that was not visible to the naked eye. It was not even discernable by the earthly senses. It was only discernable by something that was deeper, something that was higher, something more spiritual to be able to discern the divine portion, so Jesus asked the disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Some said John the Baptist.

Now the thing about John the Baptist, John the Baptist was killed in Chapter 14 when Herod beheaded him, so they knew that John the Baptist was no longer alive because Herod had chopped his head off. But yet they said John the Baptist, and then they said, "Some say you are Elias" or Elijah. Elijah had been dead. He died in the Old Testament." So Elijah had been dead for hundreds of years. So some said that he was Elijah and then they said -- and some of the other prophet is Jeremiah - - Jeremiah, dead hundreds of years. Everyone whom they referred to as to who Jesus was, was dead.

Now back in that day, they believed in what's called the Transmigration of Souls. In modern terminology, we call it reincarnation. They believed heavily in

reincarnation back then. That's why every one of the people they asked who Jesus was said fundamentally Jesus is the reincarnated such and such. This is where he came from. Now, it sounds ridiculous but there are a whole lot of folks who believe that today.

For example, if you go to Tibet and you look at the Dalai Lama. Well, do you know how they picked the Dalai Lama? They said the Dalai Lama is a reincarnation of one of the old Dalai Lamas and they'll go and find a child who they believe is the reincarnation of one of the former Dalai Lamas.

Hinduism believes in reincarnation. Sikhism believes in reincarnation. Buddhism believes in reincarnation. Some even of the Jewish sects such as those who follow the Kabbalah, and the Hasidic Jews, they believe in reincarnation. Among the world religions and among the nonreligious, there are actually more people who believe in reincarnation than who do not. So even if you ask folks today, not 2000 years ago, even if you ask folks today, most of the people worldwide will say that Jesus is a reincarnation of someone else. But Jesus asked them, "But whom do ye say that I am?"

The interesting thing about this is he did not just ask Peter. He asked all of the disciples, all 12 of them. It looked like the rest of them didn't know. He didn't just ask Peter; he asked all of the disciples. It looked like the rest of them didn't know. And Peter piped up -- do you know sometimes you can be with someone, travel with them, eat with them, sometimes even be on the same home with them, grow up with them, and you still don't know who they are? Sometimes you hear some people when something is serious, "I just didn't know that he was like that. I didn't even know." Sometimes you can be with someone, be they great or evil and you do not even know truly who they are but "Whom do ye say that I am."

"And Simon and Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Blessed art thou Simon Barjona for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in heaven.'"

Do you know the first thing that you get when you really know who Jesus is, is a blessing? The first thing you get when you really know who Jesus is, is a blessing. First thing Jesus said to Peter, "Blessed art thou." Many of us are trying to get a blessing from all the wrong places. The minute you truly know who Jesus is, blessings come from that knowledge. "Blessed art thou Simon because flesh and blood hath not revealed this to you." And he said, "You are the Son of the living God."

I got another whole revelation about that and oftentimes, things that were in the Bible, they exist in truth on multiple levels. "He's the Son of the living God." Now, God lives but there is another understanding of the word "living". He is the Son of

the living God, meaning that Jesus, when you really know Jesus, it's going to affect how you are living. He's not just a son of a God way up in the heaven; he's the Son of the living God and if you really know Jesus, it's going to affect the way that you live.

People are going to be able to see a change in your life. He's not just God who was alive, he's the Son of the living God. And I can tell you this people, if people cannot see Jesus in your life, you don't know Jesus. You're like a whole lot of those folks who they came to Jesus and said, "Lord, we've worked miracles in thy name, we cast out demons in thy name, we've done all this and that" and they say, "Jesus, get away from me, you work of evil. I had never even knew you." You see, if people cannot see something in your living, you don't really know Jesus. He is the Son of the living God. People ought to be able to just see the way you walk and talk and think and the vibration that's around you, and they ought to be able to tell there's something different about you.

Gandhi, who is one of the other religions who believes in reincarnation, Gandhi says this. He says, "If the world knew the Christ of Christians, they would accept him. But because they know the Christians of Christ, they're rejecting." If they knew the Son of the living God, of the living God.

I had an experience a couple of weeks ago. Again, I was on 42. I was just moving into the first week of row and I had left church that Sunday and I went over to this - there's a sandwich shop called Jimmy John's. And Jimmy John's has a veggie sandwich but they make it with just lettuce instead of bread. It's called Unwich. So you can order a number six Unwich if you leave off the cheese and leave off the mayonnaise. There's nothing in it but vegetables wrapped up in lettuce.

So my oldest son and I, we went to Jimmy John's and I went inside and I ordered me several Unwiches and he ordered him Unwiches but he didn't like cucumber, so he ordered his without cucumber, so we actually had six Unwiches coming. So I told him, I said, "Look, you stay here. I'm paying for it. You stay and bring the sandwiches. I'm going out and sit in the car." I walked outside and as I walked outside, there was a man coming towards me. And I could tell from the way that he walked, the way that he was dressed that he was economically challenged. And he walked up to me and he said, "Look, can you help me out with some spare change?"

One of the things with 42 is that you are required to give someone something material each today. Something I'm required to do anyway is to help someone everyday. And I went in my pocket and I pulled out my wallet and I had ones, had a couple of fives, a couple of tens and some 20s. And I reached in my wallet and I pulled out a 20, folded it up and handed it to the man. And when the man got it and then unfolded it, his eyes just lit up and he said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" And as he walked away -- now, I was still dressed in my preaching clothes, I

had on my white suit, my white shoes, and as he walked away, I heard him saying under his breath, "I have just encountered an angel." And as he was going around the corner, I heard him shout out, "I just met God!"

Now, if the world could see the Son of the living God in us in the way that we lived, in the way that we interacted with people, if the world could see the Son of the living God, it would change the world. "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The other major revelation that I saw is that when you know who Jesus is, you then find out who you are. See, the minute Peter was able to tell Jesus in truth who he was, then Jesus said, "Blessed art thou," and then he said, "Thou art Simon, Peter and upon this rock will I build my church." The minute he was able to understand and to know who Jesus was, he found out who he was and then he found out his destiny.

A lot of us sometimes, we are lost and we wander about through life wondering who we are and what are we supposed to do. And we sometimes don't really even have a clue what our divine destiny is. We are like sailboats. We simply go wherever the winds of life blow us, but we really don't know. "Lord, what am I supposed to do?" and oftentimes, we don't know what we're supposed to do because we don't know the Lord.

When you truly know who Jesus is, you will find out who you are. And then you will find out what you are supposed to do. And the thing is people, sometimes we can't see that by the raw physically. You've got to move into the spirit to even get the real character of Jesus, but you do have his words. And I imagine that if Jesus were in the presence of us today, he probably would look like what we expect him to look like.

Do you know when he came back after his resurrection, folks didn't know him and he was walking along with them. The disciples didn't recognize him, so it's not easy to know who Jesus is. And this thing takes an inner eye, an inner understanding, a yearning to truly know who Jesus is. And then Jesus told Peter, "I'm going to give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven," all this just from knowing who he is."

I was in the dressing room earlier this morning and my brother, Pastor James and Pastor C. Elijah, they were talking about basketball. James had been playing with another team and they are tied, one game to one game. James was telling C. Elijah that he really needed C. Elijah on their team. And you wouldn't know that C. Elijah is a great player because he's not as tall as I am or James, but he's awesome. And C. Elijah said this. He said, "I don't bring but two things to the game; that's all I got. I only have two things." He said, "All I've got is awesome defense and awesome

offense.” He said, “That’s all I’ve got.” But the point is, that’s all it is. If you’ve got awesome defense and if you’ve got awesome offense, there isn’t any more. When you know Jesus, there isn’t any more.

This is the point and he brings the whole ball of wax. But sometimes, just like it was when he was resurrected, he’s unrecognizable because he comes to you as a man on the street in need. He comes to you as somebody who is not regal or royal. He comes to you in a disguise that’s not the way you think. He’s not coming in a ball of glowing light walking on the clouds where you can easily recognize him. He’s going to come as the Son of the living God. And he’ll give you the keys to some things. But people, let me tell you something. You don’t give your keys to someone you don’t know. You won’t give the keys to your car, you won’t give the keys to your house, you definitely won’t give the keys to your bank account. You will not give the keys to someone who you don’t know.

Do you know who Jesus is? And too often in the church, we’ll float through the routine of church but we really don’t know who Jesus is. He’s the Son of the living God. Right where you live is where you’re going to find Jesus. Right next door is where you’re going to find Jesus. Right with someone with their hands out is where you’re going to find Jesus. He’s the Son of the living God. Do you really know Jesus? And once you’re able to find Jesus, once you’re able to really know him -- and I wish I could tell you it comes from baptism, but you go down ignorant of Jesus in a war, you come up ignorant of Jesus in a war.

It doesn’t come from that. He’s the Son of the living God and you’ll need to understand that living took on just a whole new parameter for me when I recognized that. How you live everyday will determine how you’re going to meet Jesus. He’s the Son of living God. And today, wherever you are, it’s time for you to truly know Jesus. It begins with a confession but it continues with action. And it’s going to continue with when you walk out of this church, when you turn off your television, when you shut down the internet, when you turn off your CD player. That’s when it’s going to matter and that’s when you know. And they said, “Lord, when did we feed you? When did we clothe you?” When you’ve done it unto the least of these, my brethren, then you’ve done it unto me.”

He’s the Son of the living God and he’s got the keys to everything that we need. And when we understand that and when we truly seek, we will find but we’ll seek him and find him in our living.

We need to know the book but you’ve got to come out of the book and put this stuff in practice. You need to know the book but he’s the Son of the living God. Jesus is waiting on you right now and he’s waiting on you to come to him and just to find out truly who he is.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.