

## **First Baptist Church – Calgary**

**Week of:** June 13, 2010

**Message Series:** Questions Jesus Asked

*#2 – Who do you say I am?*

- *Mark 8:27-37*

### **Introduction:**

It's common within our society to meet people who have questions about Jesus. After all, Jesus is such an interesting and compelling person within human history. He claimed to be God, performed many miracles, taught with profound wisdom, modeled a life of selflessness & humility, and claims today almost three billion followers. On top of that, his people preach that he rose from the dead and will one day return to judge the earth and wrap up human history. Is it any wonder that so many have questions about him?

It's interesting to note however that Jesus, too, had some questions. And as expected his questions are not trivial in nature but rather profound. They demand careful thought, inward reflection, and always a choice on our part. In fact, they are the sort of questions that we would expect God to ask.

### **Study Notes:**

**Personal Study:** #2 – *Who do you say I am?*

**Read (skim if you wish) Mark 6:7 – Mark 8:26**

1. Can you sense the excitement and anticipation building concerning Jesus and his ministry?

- By Mark 8:27 what would you have been thinking about your future had you been one of the twelve disciples?
- Have you ever experienced a time of significant spiritual activity and ministry “success”? What was it like, and why did it end?

**Read Mark 8:27-37.**

2. Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples what they were hearing from others regarding him? What’s the significance of what the crowds are believing?

3 Peter’s answer in verse 29 shifts the entire tone & message of Jesus’ ministry. From this point on everything points to the rejection, suffering, judgment & death of the cross, followed by the resurrection.

- Why would Jesus wait until now to begin emphasizing the cross within the proclamation of the Kingdom of God? (Read Mark 1:14-28)

4. Peter’s has strong feelings about Jesus’ words in verses 31-32.

- Do you share Peter’s reaction? What is it about Christ’s death that makes it difficult for so many (including us if we’re honest) to accept?

**Read again verses 34-37.**

5. These verses lie at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus, and it’s paradox for humanity: losing = finding; denying = receiving; gaining the world = forfeiting my soul.

- So why can’t we “have it all?” What’s wrong with that?
- What does this tell you about God’s character and God’s purposes within creation?

6. Where is your soul today? Are you forfeiting it for what this life offers, or are you guarding it carefully by following Jesus?

- More specifically, what is it that God is insisting *you* give up today in order to save your soul? Will you do it?
- What is your soul worth to you? What is it worth to God?