



# WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM?

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# Do You Know Jesus?

*Who do you say that I am?*

-Jesus (Matthew 16:15, Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

WHILE ON THE EARTH, JESUS PROPOSED A QUESTION TO HIS APOSTLES saying, “Whom do men say that I am?”<sup>7</sup> With confidence, His apostles answered, “John the Baptist . . . some say Elias; and others, One of the prophets.”<sup>8</sup> He then asked them the most important question, “But whom say ye that I am?”<sup>9</sup>

We must ask ourselves: Who is Jesus? Is He the Christ or a good teacher? Is He the Son of God or a lunatic? Is He resurrected, or was His body stolen? While we can listen to other testimonies and hear their witness of Jesus, the only way to come to our own conclusion is by desiring to know.

We need to study, pray, and seek to come to understand who Jesus truly is. You can't just ask, “Jesus, are you the Christ?” and do nothing. Is that how you make friends? Do you just walk up to a random stranger and ask them to be your friend? If you tried this, you would instantly be turned down. If you want to be friends with someone, you have to be genuinely interested in the person. You need to get to know them by asking questions, hanging out, laughing together, and crying together.

The way we create relationships with others is the way Jesus wants us to come unto Him. He wants us to get to know Him just as He knows each one of us. He wants you to ask questions. He wants you to take time to be with Him. He wants you to come to Him with your pains and concerns. He wants you to intimately know Him just as He knows you.

## *He Knows You!*

Jesus doesn't just know *about* you. He knows *you*. He knows your pains, sorrows, and weaknesses. Jesus suffered in Gethsemane and on the cross so He could know every little thing about you. If Jesus was willing to die so He could know you, shouldn't we give Him a couple minutes of our day to come to know Him? Jeremiah 29:13 teaches, “You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”<sup>10</sup> If you seek Jesus, you will find Him, and you will personally come to know Him. Jesus declares, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!”<sup>11</sup> Jesus has redeemed you so He could call you His own. He wants *you!*

## *The One Thing We Cannot Say*

While Jesus has given everything to know us, some will say Jesus is a great person, but not the Son of God. To people who say, “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God,” C. S. Lewis taught, “That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”<sup>12</sup>

Jesus has made the decision simple. Either He is the Christ or a madman. We cannot say He is an outstanding teacher but not the Christ or we will receive the rebuke, “You know me not.”<sup>13</sup>

### *How Can I Know?*

Thomas was a great apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, but like all of us, he had doubts and questions. After Jesus talked with the apostles, Thomas asked, “How can we know?”<sup>14</sup> We all have asked this question. We want to know, but how? There is only one way to come to know—the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12:3 states, “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”<sup>15</sup> Jesus enthusiastically told Peter, “God has blessed you, Simon, son of Jonah . . . for my Father in heaven has personally revealed this to you—this is not from any human source.”<sup>16</sup>

It is only “by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know”<sup>17</sup> that Jesus is the Christ. If you want to know Jesus, pray, read, and seek. As you actively seek, the Lord will tell you with joy just as He told Peter, “Blessed art thou, [insert your name], for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”<sup>18</sup> If you have a desire to come to know Jesus, the Spirit will confirm that He is the Christ, and you will be able to declare like Peter, “[I] believe and know that you are The Messiah, The Son of the living God.”<sup>19</sup>

### *You’re Not Your Tone of Voice*

I served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Honduras for two years. I love Jesus Christ and I am very passionate about His gospel. I love to teach and share messages with everyone. Sadly, however, my passion can be confused for anger. People sometimes asked me, “Are you mad?” or “Did I say something that made you mad?” Not coming across as angry is something I have been working on my whole life.

One day, after getting back from an exchange with the assistants to the mission president, my companion told me that many people mentioned to him that they had been offended because I had gotten angry with them. One of the ladies exclaimed to him, “How can he be a missionary if he gets angry with people?”

After hearing these comments, I beat myself up. I felt so inadequate. I muttered to myself, “People misunderstood the point of the message because of my tone of voice.” As I was chewing myself out, the Lord brought to my mind the following, “You’re not your tone of voice. You are my son, my faithful disciple, and defender of the faith.”

Like me, all of us have weaknesses and make mistakes. Christ taught, “I give men weakness that they may be humble”<sup>20</sup> Christ gives us weaknesses so we put our trust in Him. However, Satan will use our weaknesses to define us and make us feel inadequate. Satan wants to constantly remind us of our weaknesses, our “tone of voice.” He will tell us that nobody loves us because of our weaknesses. He will trick us into believing we *are* our “tone of voice.”

We all are sinners and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). However, Jesus doesn’t define us by this. He doesn’t call us by our weaknesses. He defines you by who He is. He calls us His children. He calls us loved. He calls us redeemed. He calls us His. Jesus doesn’t define you by your past. He views you as what you can become. Satan focuses on our sins while Christ views our potential. Don’t listen to Satan. Listen to Christ and what He calls you.

## *I Will Give You a New Name*

*You will have a new name that the Lord himself will give you.* Isaiah 62:2, Easy-to-Read Version

Jesus gives us a far greater name than we could ever imagine. Jesus promises, “I will give them—within the walls of my house—a memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give. For the name I give them is an everlasting one. It will never disappear!”<sup>21</sup> He gives us His perfect name that will never go away.

When we enter a covenant relationship with Jesus through the waters of baptism, we take upon ourselves the name of Christ. We are called by a “new name”<sup>22</sup>—His name. And even though we are sinners, we are justified by our covenant relationship and declared perfect in Christ. Satan calls us sinners, but Jesus calls us saints. Satan calls us guilty, lost, and hopeless, but Jesus calls us righteous, redeemed, and reborn.

When we enter a covenant relationship with Jesus, His names become our names. We still sin but are now defined by the Sinless One. Even though you are a sinner, the title of “sinner” no longer defines you. Jesus defines you, and He will call you spotless before Him. Jesus “doth call you; yea, and in his own name he doth call you, which is the name of Christ.”<sup>23</sup>

## *Do You Know the Name by Which You Are Called?*

Jesus’s name sets us free. John 8:32 declares, “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”<sup>24</sup> The truth is a name for Christ. If you substitute Jesus’s name for truth, we read, “And you will know [Jesus], and [Jesus] will set you free.” Acts 4:12 declares, “for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”<sup>25</sup> The name of Jesus saves you.

The way we gain eternal life is by having a relationship with God and understanding our dependence on Him. John 17:3 teaches, “And this is the way to have

eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.”<sup>26</sup> Studying the names of Jesus will help you come to know Jesus and His divine role in your life. It will help you put your full trust in Him.

Jeffrey R. Holland, an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches, “In our search ‘to know . . . God, and Jesus Christ, whom [He] hast sent’ (John 17:3), we can learn more about who Christ was, is, and will yet be by examining the names and titles given to Him than by any other method.”<sup>27</sup>

The best way to come to know Jesus is to study His names. “He reveals himself through His designations, and all His glorious names meet varying needs in our own lives. They reveal diverse dimensions of His power, love, grace, glory, and goodness that touch our souls. They disclose the many layers of His relationship with us. His names help us fix our thoughts on Him in new ways. They fill our minds with Him who can fill our hearts and guide our lives. Each of His names helps reassure us of His love in so many different ways.”<sup>28</sup> As you study the names of Jesus, you will also learn the many new names He gives you. In Him, we find our worth and identity. Mosiah 5:9 declares, “Whosoever doeth this shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ.”

As you read, I hope you can come to know the name by which you are called and cement your answer to the question Jesus asked His disciples, “Whom say ye that I am?”<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Mark 8:27, KJV.

<sup>8</sup> Mark 8:28, KJV.

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 16:15, KJV.

<sup>10</sup> Jeremiah 29:13, NASB.

<sup>11</sup> Isaiah 43:1, NASB.

<sup>12</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (United Kingdom: HarperCollins, 2001), 52.

<sup>13</sup> Gospel Library App, *The Bible*, Matthew 25:12, Footnote A, Joseph Smith Translation & Inspired Version Mathew 25:11.

<sup>14</sup> John 14:5, KJV.

<sup>15</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:3, NET.

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 16:17, TLB.

<sup>17</sup> Moroni 10:5.

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 16:17, KJV.

<sup>19</sup> John 6:69, ABPE.

<sup>20</sup> Ether 12:27.

<sup>21</sup> Isaiah 56:5, NLT.

<sup>22</sup> Revelation 3:12, KJV.

<sup>23</sup> Alma 5:38.

<sup>24</sup> John 8:32, ISV.

<sup>25</sup> Acts 4:12, ESV.

<sup>26</sup> John 17:3, NLT.

<sup>27</sup> Jeffrey R. Holland, *Witness for His Names* (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book, 2019), 12.

<sup>28</sup> Robert J. Morgan, *He Shall Be Called* (Warner Faith, 2005), xiii.

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 16:15, KJV.

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