



You Can Have Your Best Life Now and Forever, If...

November 18, 2018

TEXT: MATT 16:13-15

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Before we get into our text, let’s be clear that this is not about prosperity teaching or preaching from the perspective of materialistic things, but prosperity as it relates to a life with Jesus Christ. The modern day prosperity message leaves many people blaming God for their hurt and ultimately deaf to the Word of God. My goal is to push this type of teaching and mindset away from the church and God’s people by implanting what biblical prosperity is supposed to encompass which leads to you living your best life now and forever.

TEXT OVERVIEW

In our passage we see three important things happening in Caesarea Philippi (a city known for idol and pagan worship) that caused societal and self-evaluation:

1. Jesus arrives on the scene and the talking **stops** and/or whispering begins.

Have you ever entered into a place and everybody got quiet? This could be a good thing in the sense of respect or you being nosey.

2. Jesus asks the disciples about the **climate** or chatter in the city regarding him.

Is there any chatter going on about you (work, school, church, neighborhood, etc.)?

3. Jesus asks the disciples their **thoughts** since they supposedly knew Him best.

Who knows you best and are you willing to listen to the comments – both positive and negative?

TWO SIMPLE QUESTIONS

Bottom line up front; if you can answer two simple questions, you can be on your way to having your best life now and forever. If not, I pray by the end of this service you will have some guidance and steps to get those answers. Everyone is given an opportunity to know Jesus the Christ no matter the ethnic background, color of skin, financial status or education level. Jesus is available to all!!

QUESTION ONE: WHO IS JESUS? (V13)

This first question has been asked, debated and falsely disproven by theologians, Bible scholars, anti-Christ believers and archaeologists. Over two thousand years have passed and the answer has not changed. The Bible gives over 150 names and **titles** for Jesus and each one helps with the solidification of who He is.

- a. **Son of God** (Jn 1:49; Heb 4:14).
By being the second person of the trinity, the shedding of His blood covered the world.
- b. **Bread of Life** (Jn 6:35; 6:48)
Is He part of your daily menu?
- c. **Chief Cornerstone** (Eph 2:20)
Building your entire life on the Chief Cornerstone guarantees NO let down in the sense of never leaving or forsaking you.
- d. **Deliverer** (Rom 11:26)
Jesus has never defaulted on His Word. He does deliver.
- e. **Holy and True** (Rev 3:7)
He is deserving of all the honor because He is our King and He is not a man that He should lie.
- f. **Hope** (1 Tim 1:1)
Before Him, there was no chance; now because of Him, we can have life and life more abundantly.
- g. **Light of the World** (Jn 8:12)
Just a little light (Jesus) can change the world; imagine flood lights (Jesus 24/7).
- h. **Mediator of the New Covenant** (Heb 9:15)
Jesus is the best negotiator ever!!! Many may not like the deals he makes but He still is!
- i. **Our Redemption** (1 Cor 1:24)
Your money, education, social status, job title and even position in the church cannot redeem you.
- j. **Prince of Peace** (Isa 9:6)
Without Peace the war will continue. But with Peace, we can continue to fight the war!
- k. **Resurrection and Life** (Jn 11:25)
This should encourage us to know that Jesus was resurrected; therefore, you and even your situation can be resurrected.

l. **Source of Eternal Salvation for All Who Obey Him** (Heb 5:9)
Once Jesus made a way, the choice became ours. What will you do?

m. **Way, Truth and Life** (Jn 14:6)
There aren't multiple paths to the Father.

n. **Lord of All (Acts 10:36)**
Understanding these three words can dramatically start a makeover in your daily walk.

This list is nowhere near all the names and titles Jesus is given in the Bible and, as you can see, we do not serve just a man but the Jesus of the universe. So, when asked who He is we need to know that we know, act like we know and talk like we know Jesus is Lord over it all and yes, that includes us!

QUESTION TWO: WHO IS JESUS TO YOU? (V15)

- This second question is one mommy, daddy, sister, brother or a best friend cannot answer. You alone must come to a conclusion based on what you know or don't know. So many people can give you the text book answer when things are going great in their life but when life becomes chaotic, dark, and lonely, does Jesus remain the same?
- Every Christian or professing Christian has had their road to Damascus moment. In short, this is a turning point in your life where you were tired of playing the game and you said, "Jesus you win, I am yours." This does not mean money cometh, health cometh, wife cometh, husband cometh, or boyfriend/girlfriend cometh. It just means that Jesus came into your life and made you over. You were finally able to say, "Lord, you are the potter and I am the clay. Do as you will!!!"
- Identifying who Jesus is to you should direct how you **proceed** in life. There will be changes--some good and some bad. Bishop McLeod has taught that you could be in one of three places at different times in your life; entering the wilderness, in the wilderness or coming out of the wilderness. Regardless, you need to know who Jesus is to you at those times. Below are just a few of the names and titles He is to me:

My Lord and Savior

My Joy

My Peace

My Sanctifier

My Fortress

My Comforter

My Protector

My Mediator

My Rock

My Defender

My Bread of Life

My Provider

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Stay **focused** on God throughout the day:

- Make time every day (schedule).
- Block out distraction (music).
- Read the Bible daily.
- Pray daily (in some cases this could be minute by minute).
- Reflect on God's goodness as you move through the day.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Jesus sends us “forget-me-nots” daily; when you rise, when you sleep, when you eat, when you drive, when you walk, when you raise your hand, when you speak and the list goes on and on. He does this because of his love for us and his desire for all to partake in His love forever.

I am so glad Jesus sees us as friends (Jn 15:15), masterpieces (Song of Solomon 2:16), treasures (Duet 7:6), and sons and daughters (2Cor 6:18). His love for us was confirmed when he put on flesh, was crucified for our sins, and died and rose again just for us. That's love.

These two questions, *who is Jesus* and *who is Jesus to you*, are questions that can radically change how you see the world. Take some time this week to ponder these questions. You can truly have your best life now and forever if you elevate your view of Christ.