

Peter's Confession

Jesus: God Revealed!

Sermon Discussion Guide for the week of June 17, 2015

Main Point: The most important question a person can answer is, "Who is Jesus?"

Luke 9: 18-27

CONNECT

Have you ever been mistaken for someone else? Have you or anyone you know ever been mistaken for a celebrity? Share your experience with the group.

What are the distinctive marks of a person's identity? What makes you who you are?

What are the distinctive marks of Jesus' identity?

LEARN

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Luke 9:7-9.

Why do you think Herod was so curious about Jesus' identity?

What were people saying about who Jesus was?

Why do you think people today are still curious about Jesus?

What is the difference between being curious about Jesus and submitting to Him as Lord?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Luke 9:18-27

Why would Jesus be interested in this opinion poll about who people think He is?

Why was that answer not a sufficient one for Jesus? Why did He ask the additional question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Who did Peter say Jesus was? What is significant about his answer?

Do you think Peter fully understood the implications of what he was saying? Why or why not?

How might the disciples have felt about verse 22? How might this have changed their understanding of Jesus' mission and their part in it?

What are some ways, even today, that people might misunderstand what Jesus' purpose was and is?

In your own words, what did Jesus mean by "take up his cross"? Why is doing so a necessary part of discipleship?

How might Jesus' command to "deny" self and "take up" our crosses daily contradict current cultural assumptions about how greatness is achieved in life?

How might our thinking about greatness need to change in order to honor Christ's command in verse 23?

Do you think we have the tendency to water down the requirements of Jesus? Why or why not?

What are some examples of half-hearted devotion to God?

What does Jesus promise His disciples at the close of this passage? How does that promise of the future inspire devotion in the present?

SERVE

Do you tend to think of Jesus in more often in earthly terms or divine terms? Why is it important that we understand that Jesus is fully man and fully God?

If Jesus is who He says He is, what does that imply about how we should be living? What is one area of your life that needs to be shifted in submission to Christ's lordship?

Is someone in your life suffering in some way for the sake of the kingdom? How can you encourage them?

Who do your non-Christian friends and family say that Jesus is? How can you challenge them to rethink their perspective?

How might considering who Jesus is and what He has done for you give you identity and purpose in life?

PRAYER

Spend time praying that we would find joy in giving Him lordship over every area of our lives. Pray that God would use us to help our non-Christian friends see Jesus' true identity and trust Him as Lord of their lives.