

18- Who is this Man Called Jesus? Mark 6:14-29; 8:27-30

In our text today we see that there was a variety of opinions about who Jesus was. A clear understanding of who Jesus is and was is critical to life. Let's look at the varied opinions of who Jesus was during this time in the early ministry.

I- The Opinions:

As the apostles carried out their assigned duties of preaching, healing and casting out demons the word spread. There were a lot of rumors flying around about who He was. *Mark 6:14-16 And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. 15 Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets. 16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.*

1- Some thought He was John the Baptist:

Mark 6:14 NASB And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him."

This is interesting because they were saying it was John and that was how He was doing the miracles. The reason is that John did not do a single miracle. Jesus told us in *John 10:25;38 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me....38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

We go forward to a later time recorded in Mark chapter 8. Jesus and His disciples are at Caesarea Philippi. Notice who Peter told Jesus men thought He was. *Mark 8:27-28 ...Whom do men say that I am? 28 And they answered, John the Baptist...* This was who that Herod thought Jesus was. *Mark 6:16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.*

2- Some thought He was Elijah (Elias):

Mark 6:15 Others said, That it is Elias. Peter also said in *Matthew 8:28 ...but some say, Elias...*

Every year at Passover during the meal the Jewish people would send a young lad to the door to see if Elijah was coming. *2 Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

Jews at the time of Jesus expected Elijah to return because of the prophecy of *Malachi 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

Jesus taught us that this indeed had happened in the personage of John the Baptist. *Matthew 11:10;14 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. ...14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*

Many today claim a lot of different things about Jesus that are not supported by the Scriptures.

3- Some thought a Prophet like the ones of the Past:

Mark 6:15 ...And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets. Mark 8:28 ...and others, One of the prophets. From the time of Malachi there had been 400 years of silence from God in which He did not send a prophet. They understood that a great prophet would come in latter times as well. Peter would touch on this fact later in the temple when he preached about who Jesus was that they had killed. *Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.*

So was Jesus just another prophet? It may be true that other prophets had performed many different miracles but there is certainly one that separated Jesus from the others. After He had been dead three days Jesus was resurrected. *Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

We also see that there are so many prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus that He had absolutely nothing to do with. One is where He was born. Another was He was at the mercy of Joseph and Mary that took Him into Egypt.

II- But Who Do You Say?

Within the rest of the text we find the greatest question that can be posed to men. Who do you think Jesus is? *Mark 8:29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. 30 And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.*

Mark records for us Jesus standing before Pilate and Pilate asking Him who He was? *Mark 15:2 HCSB So Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You have said it." Pilate marveled that Jesus did not answer His accusers after this. Remember the inscription on the cross was, "The King of the Jews."*

Who is Jesus in your life? No, not just simply who you say He is with words but who is He by your actions. Is He your Lord and Savior and King of your life? Jesus said to us in *Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*