

# WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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**32** That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. **33** And the whole city was gathered together at the door. **34** And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

**35** And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. **36** And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, **37** and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” **38** And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” **39** And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**40** And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” **41** Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” **42** And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. **43** And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, **44** and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” **45** But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no

longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

Jesus demands silence because of

#### His Power over Evil

- “**32** That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. **33** And the whole city was gathered together at the door. **34** And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him” (vv. 32–34).
- Why weren’t demons allowed to speak?
- Jesus has authority over the Demonic.

#### His Prayer with the Father

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- Why did Jesus need to pray?
  - “The incarnate Son relates to his Father in divine-filial relation as he has from eternity but now also in willing obedience to his Father’s will for our salvation. . . . The same Son has never acted independently of the Father, and as the Son, in his humanity, he continues to live in total dependence on the Father but now within the limits of his human nature” (Stephen J. Wellum, *The Person of Christ*, 155).
  - “Jesus did what he did by drawing on his connection to the capacities of God” (John Mark Comer, *Practicing the Way*, 125).
  - “His authority, strength, and power come from God alone” (David E. Garland, Mark, 73).
- Jesus relied on the presence and power of God.

#### His Popularity with the People

- “**40** And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” **41** Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” **42** And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. **43** And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, **44** and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” **45** But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a

town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter” (vv. 40–45).

- Why were people told to keep silent?
  - But Jesus’ demand of others to tell no one “is part of a larger secrecy motif in the Gospel as a whole whereby the mysterious identity of Jesus is only gradually revealed” (Michael Bird, “Christ,” 121).
    - Jesus was being strategic
    - Jesus was being messianic
      - “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street” (Isaiah 42:1–2).
- Jesus’ time hadn’t come yet.

As the Messiah, Jesus demands silence because of his power, prayer, and popularity.

But Jesus isn’t silent anymore!

“3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:3–6).