

# WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 1:32–45

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

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

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

## Mark 1:32–45

**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.

- In the Gospel of Mark, silence is an important element. Why is silence important in our lives?
- We first see Jesus silence the demons. Why does Jesus “not permit the demons to speak?”
- Revelation 12:9 describes the devil as “the deceiver of the whole world.” How might Satan and the demonic realm deceive people regarding Jesus?
- How is Jesus’ kingdom opposed to the demonic? How do we see this in the Gospels, and how do we see it today?
- Jesus also pursues silence to pray. Jesus is the Son of God and yet he prays to the Father. Why does Jesus, who is God, need to still pray and depend on the Father?
- What hinderances do you face when you experience silence?
- How might you pursue silence to spend time in prayer with the Father?

- We also discover that Jesus is very popular with the people. Why was this a problem for Jesus?
- How is the gospel associated with Jesus' silencing the people?
- One of Mark's main points is to demonstrate that Jesus' is the messiah. How is Jesus' silencing the crowds proof of his messiahship? Look at Isaiah 42:1–2 for help.
- Jesus is no longer silent! What does this mean for us?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:3–6. The apostle Paul writes, “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” (2 Corinthians 4:4). How can we help open the eyes of the blind and aid them seeing the light of the gospel?