

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 8:1-21

"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?"

Who do you say he is? Break the cycle of doubt—don't double-fault your faith! Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!

- 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 8:1-21

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, **2** “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. **3** And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” **4** And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” **5** And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” **6** And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. **7** And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. **8** And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. **9** And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. **10** And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

11 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. **12** And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” **13** And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

14 Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. **15** And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” **16** And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. **17** And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? **18** Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? **19** When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” **20** “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” **21** And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

- In order to understand what the Gospel writer, Mark, is doing, we have to remember the first feeding by Jesus. Read Mark 6:31-45 and compare/contrast it with Mark 8:1-10.
- Based on Mark 6, how do you think Jesus wants the disciples to respond to the hungry crowd in Mark 8? How do they respond?
- We’re not unlike the disciples. Jesus often does something in our lives to show us that we can have faith in him and trust him. Then a similar situation occurs and you

doubt Jesus. What are some similar situations you've experienced where you doubt Jesus?

- Why do you think we doubt Jesus even after he has demonstrated we can trust him?
- In Mark 8:11-21 this is the third time Jesus is on a boat on the Sea of Galilee with his disciples. Read the following passages and compare what they say about the disciples: Mark 4:38-41, Mark 6:50-52, and Mark 8:17-21.
- Read Mark 4:9-12. What does Jesus say about the disciples in Mark 4 compared to what the disciples do in Mark 8?
- If the disciples were given the secrets of the kingdom (Mark 4:11), why didn't they understand what Jesus was doing and believe what he could do?
- Assess your faith. How is your faith presently?
- In this season of Lent, how can you allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith? What do you need to trust the Lord to do? What do you need to do?
- Close your time praying for one another's faith. Ask the Lord to strengthen each other's faith during this Lenten season.