

Who is Jesus?

“But about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say that I am?”

-- Matthew 16:15

Living in an age where Google offers ready and instant answers to just about any question we might have means that we tend to become lazy about what type of questions we ask and how we ask our questions. It also means that we have become obsessed with answers and are more interested in answers to trivial questions than learning to ask the right questions. On Sunday we began a new series of reflections that we have called “7 Vital Questions”... A series aimed at helping us live more intentional Christian lives by learning the value of good questions and exploring faithful Christian responses to some of life’s more serious questions.

We began this series on Sunday in the only place we reasonably could... Any list of questions that offers to be a list of so-called vital questions must begin with this one. Who is Jesus?

This is the one question that must be answered by every person in every place and in every age. The very words of this question are found on the lips of Jesus, and immortalized for our reflection in the pages of the Gospels, and to this day – in one sense or another – Jesus is still asking each of His disciples (you and me); “Who do you say I am?”

Of course there is only one true answer, only one correct answer, and that is the answer which was first given by Peter and must be given by all of us too... “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” We must give this answer or no answer at all. It is only when Jesus is first and foremost the Christ (our Saviour) and the Son of God (our Lord) that he can also be all the other things that we believe him to be – our teacher and example, etc.

Moreover, when we give this one true answer we must realize also that there are three dimensions to it... (1) The Personal dimension; reminding us that this is a question we must all answer for ourselves. We cannot claim the answer of another person, there is no cribbing allowed; I must take responsibility for the answer that I give. (2) The Communal dimension; reminding us that this is a question we must answer together. We cannot give this answer in isolation from others; the answer implies a sense of belonging to others who have given the same answer. To put it more quaintly, we cannot truly believe unless we also truly belong. (3) The Public dimension; reminding us that this is a question we must be willing to answer publicly. We cannot give this answer in private only, away from the watching eyes and listening ears of the world. We must be bold and faithful in every place, especially in public. If Jesus is our Saviour and Lord then we will gladly confess him as this in the presence of others, no matter who they might be.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, my Saviour, our saviour, thank you for giving me the opportunity to reflect on this most vital question of who you are. Thank you for challenging me by asking me to answer that question. I know that the only true response is to say with Peter that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And I want to give that answer with all my heart. Please give me the grace and strength I need to truly believe this and to confess this great truth personally, communally and publicly – for you are worthy of an answer that is true. In your name Lord Jesus I humbly pray, amen.

Food for Thought:

St Augustine once said, “Jesus Christ is not valued at all, until He is valued above all.”