Who Do Men Say That I Am?

Jesus had just explained to His disciples to beware of the leaven (teaching) of the Pharisees. Although religiously educated, the Pharisees did not accept Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah the Hebrew people had been expecting for 2,000 years, since the days of Abraham. (See Matthew 16:13-16.)

Therein lay the crux of the problem for every generation and every individual – *who IS Jesus?* The disciples answered as might be expected; some people think Jesus is John the Baptist, some think He is Elijah, and others were thinking He might be Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. All of those answers are predicated on the idea that Jesus is merely an earthly man of God, reincarnated from a past human being… holy, but still human.

In reality, it took the resurrection to fully convince the twelve and others that Jesus is, indeed, the only begotten Son of God, deity, Immanuel, God with us. Colossians 2:9 states it clearly, "…in Him the fulness of deity dwells in bodily form," Colossians 2:9.

His deity is established fact. But what about you? How does that realty affect you? Who do ***you*** say that He is? That was Jesus next question to the twelve. When Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus immediately pronounced Peter as blessed, then stated that this truth was a revelation from God (v. 17).

Peter and the other disciples responded with cowardice on the night Jesus was arrested. But 50 days later, on the day of Pentecost, they had a newfound courage. They stood and preached to all who gathered, that Jesus was, indeed, the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. As a result, 3,000 souls were baptized into Christ. Why? They had become convinced of His identity… He is the Messiah!

That realization, and the commitment that followed, changed their lives forever. From their deep belief, commitment and obedience, they filled Jerusalem with the teachings about Jesus (Acts 5:28). By Acts chapter 17, they had turned the world up-side-down with the good news about Jesus and eternal life.

Why? How? They merely knew who Jesus was! Who do ***you*** deep down in the secret caverns of your heart, believe Jesus really is?

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