



## WORD

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.” MATTHEW 16:13-17

## WHAT

People have many views on Jesus’ identity that are often based on different encounters, experiences, and information. While right or wrong, an opinion is very telling of one’s relationship with Jesus. Let us dig deeper on these three statements and in the process, learn about who Jesus really is.

### 1 What other people say about Jesus is important.

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What the people around us say about the Lord Jesus reflect their spiritual needs. Do they see Jesus as a mere historical figure, a “lucky charm”, a means to get provision, or someone unreachable? If they see Jesus the wrong way, then we have a role to play—to share to them who Jesus really is and what He did for us on the cross. Sometimes, these wrong views appall Christians. But what did Jesus show when He faced people who did not know the truth (Matthew 20:34; Mark 6:34)?

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### 2 What you say about Jesus is important.

<sup>15</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” MATTHEW 16:15,16

We are interested to know what other people say about Christ but how about us? And as Christians, do we really obey Him as we confess that He is our Lord? Is this seen in how we live, in our character, and in how we treat those who have yet to know Him? Our words should match our actions. What are the marks of someone who follows Jesus as his or her Lord?

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### 3 What you believe about Jesus comes from the Father.

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.” MATTHEW 16:17

When we realize who Jesus really is—our Lord and Savior—we need to remember that this is not our doing. Despite our sins against God, He chose to reach out to us. We do not deserve God’s love and forgiveness but He took the initiative to save us. What did Jesus do to reconcile us back to Himself? What are the many benefits of this gift of salvation?

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