

**“Who Is Jesus to You?”**

Luke 9:18-27

It seems unusual to suggest that with all of the preaching, teaching, witnessing and singing that is going on in the world about Jesus, that there are still people who don't know who He is. But as we look at our country, our culture, and even in the church, we must confess that there are indeed many people who either don't know or haven't yet made up their minds about who Jesus is and who He is to them. Even though we have the Bible to read, and churches to attend, there are still many who are unclear about who Jesus is, and who He is to them. You see, there are different ways of knowing who a person is. You can know a person based on observation of them, reading about them or hearing about them. However there is also a way in which we know someone because of who they are to us. This type of knowledge of a person is personal and confessional. We can talk about the person because we know *them*, not just *about them*.

In the passage today, Jesus causes the disciples and us to distinguish between the different ways that people claim to know who He is, and then He defines for us what it really means to know Him. He has just fed more than 5000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread, and some in the crowd may have had an incomplete impression of Him as only a miracle-worker. We human beings have a tendency to define God based solely on our experiences with Him. But the nature and character of God far exceeds our experience and observation. There is more to Jesus than just what we see on the surface. Every child of God must earnestly seek to know not only who Jesus is, but also who Jesus is to you, and who Jesus tells us that He is. In this text, we see the following insights about what it means to know who Jesus is;

**1) He is the “Christ”, the anointed one of God**

Jesus is the one that God has chosen and anointed to be savior and king. But even this was misinterpreted by many of the Jews because they would easily jump to the conclusion that Jesus was their military leader who would help them overthrow the Roman domination. So, Jesus tells them to not tell anyone so that this confusing rumor would not spread. His role was spiritual, not military and He came to save us from sin and death.

**2) He must suffer, be killed, and then rise again**

Jesus is the only one who died for the sins of the world. His death was a cruel, painful death, but it was not the end of the story. He rose from the dead and conquered death, hell and the grave.

**3) Those who follow Jesus must die to themselves on a daily basis**

Being a disciple of Jesus is not simply a life filled with excitement and self-gratification. It is a life of self-sacrifice and living totally committed to Him in every way. It means surrendering my will to His will without exception. Just as He voluntarily gave up His life, we must do similarly in our daily living for Him.

**4) He reveals the true Kingdom of God**

Jesus is the only one through whom the true nature of the Kingdom of God is revealed.

