

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

Jesus' True Identity

Mark 8:27-30

Pastor Ben Hall – Saanich Baptist Church

November 16th 2025



In Mark's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly asks, "Do you still not understand?"

Not as condemnation, but as an invitation to deeper faith and clearer vision of who He truly is.

This passage reminds us that:

Spiritual insight is progressive — revelation grows as faith deepens.

Religious unbelief (Pharisees) and immature discipleship (forgetful followers) both miss who Jesus truly is.

False expectations distort our view of Jesus (we want power without suffering, glory without the cross).

A Crucial Question: "Who do people say that I am?"

The crowds offered three responses:

"John the Baptist" — A Moral-Prophetic Revivalist Returned. People connected Jesus to John's moral authority, his call to repentance, and his fearless confrontation of corrupt leadership.

"Elijah" — The Eschatological Forerunner. Because Jesus performed miracles, exercised authority, and confronted religious corruption, many assumed Elijah had returned to prepare Israel for final restoration.

"One of the Prophets" — A True Prophet Like the Great Ones of Old. People believed Jesus was another prophetic voice. Significant, but still only a messenger, not the Messiah.

Each mistaken identification:

Acknowledged supernatural authority,

Anticipated eschatological importance,

But stopped short of Messiahship and Sonship.

The Turning Point: Peter's confession marks the moment Jesus is rightly identified — not as a prophet pointing to God's kingdom, but as the King of the Kingdom Himself.

Not one who points to redemption, but The One who embodies redemption.

The Most Important Question: "But who do you say that I am?"

Jesus' questions expose where our faith is stuck so He can move us toward deeper revelation.

1. "Do you still expect instant clarity, or will you trust Me to grow you in My timing?"

This question exposes our impatience with ourselves and with God's transformative work.

2. "Are you depending on your own insight, or will you trust Me to give you true vision?"

This question exposes our tendency to rely on self-understanding instead of grace, reminding us that spiritual sight is always received, never achieved.

3. "Will you let this moment — confusing as it is — become a place where you look to Me for deeper understanding?"

This question invites us to see every confusion as an opportunity for deeper trust, not a barrier to it.

4. "Who am I to you — a voice among many, or the One who embodies God's redemption?"

This question cuts through assumptions and forces us to reckon with the true identity of Jesus in our own lives.

Date: Nov. 16th, 2025

Series: Follow

Title: Jesus' True Identity

Primary Passage: Mark 8:27-30

Big Question: Why is recognizing Jesus' true identity essential for discipleship?

Big Idea: Peter's confession marks the moment Jesus is correctly identified, not as a prophet pointing to God's kingdom, but as the King of the Kingdom himself. Whereas the crowd recognized Jesus as pointing to God's redemption, they missed that He embodied God's redemption.

Keywords: Progression, Deepening, Moral Authority, Eschatological Voice, Questions, Humility.

GOING DEEPER – Life Application Questions

1. This week, how were you challenged to deepen your faith and trust in who Jesus is?

Where did Jesus invite you into deeper revelation?

2. Read Mark 8:11–30. What stands out to you?

- List every question Jesus asks.
- How does each question challenge the disciples to deepen their understanding?
- Why does Jesus call the religious leaders' beliefs "leaven"?
- Why aren't the disciples listening?
- What does this reveal about the nature of their faith — and ours?

3. What is significant about the crowd's answers to "Who do people say that I am?"

- How do people in your life answer that same question?
- How does someone's answer reveal the motivations and loyalties of the heart?

4. What is the connection between Jesus' revelation and Peter's confession?

How does this relationship inform or encourage your own faith journey?

5. Who in your life needs to hear the question, "Who do you say that Jesus is?"

Consider asking that question this week — not to win an argument, but to understand how others see Him compared to Scripture's portrait