

Who do people say that I am?

Story:

- Living in WA state, visiting Hoh rainforest – gave a ride to 2 people
- Talked about what we did and our churches – Jesus Christ
- They said, “Oh, our church has Jesus, too.” Church of the Divine Man
- Had never heard of it before – Who was Jesus to them? They try and “channel” the mind of Jesus – not exactly the same thing!

Who do people say that I am? Disciples answered Jesus’ question: John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets

More importantly – who do YOU say that I am?

Story (*Rev. M. Ditmanson – I remember him telling this story*):

- Mark, a college student, was very excited about one particular professor and wanted to impress him, so he’d regurgitate everything the professor said when he wrote his papers. One day after class, the professor asked to talk to him. He was glad that Mark listened so well to what he had to say. However, the professor wanted to know what Mark thought about the topics – what did he say about it?

Who do YOU say Jesus is? Who helped YOU name Christ?

- For many it’s family
- For many it’s a teacher, like those who help w/Disciples of God (DOG) night
- Myself – confirmation class and Pastor Meline – listened to and encouraged questions

Jesus asked disciples directly, “But who do you say that I am?”

- You – plural, asking all of the disciples
- Only Peter’s response is recorded – “You are the Messiah!”
- Great to be able to name Jesus, yet it doesn’t stop there – he turns around and rebukes Jesus and needs to be rebuked by Jesus! Constant reminder of what Christ has done for us!
- What Jesus done for us open us up – frees us – to respond to that good news of God’s love through Christ b/c he is the Messiah

We name who Jesus is – the one who saves/the Messiah – and then try to live as a disciple/follower of Jesus

- Teachers help here – to support what is happening in the home – encourage faith
- B/c know what Christ’s love done for them and want to pass on the good news
- B/c know “what good is it for man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”

- Teachers draw us into God's story so that we can continue to say, "Jesus is the Messiah!"

Invite you to think about who helped/helps you name Jesus as Messiah and actively talk about that story – the story that helped you realize you are a part of God's story

Who do you say that I am?

- Jesus – the Savior
- Maybe not always the God I think I want
- Always the God that I need (Prof. David Lose)