

## SERMON NOTE: *Who Is Jesus To Me*

By: Rev Lim Geok Seng

Bible Ref: Proverbs 12:1-28 NIV

### 1 Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

<sup>27</sup>Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup>"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

### 2 Jesus Predicts His Death

<sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

### 3 The Way of the Cross

<sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.<sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup>Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

## Who is Jesus to me?

### A. Initial answer

#### 1. The General view

Why did Jesus ask a question and not simply telling the answer? Questions require active thinking and acknowledgement, while answers are passively accepted.

The General view is often non-committal and safe

#### 2. The right answer?

" \*But\* who do you say I am?" - Jesus' real concern. Peter may have the right word but he may have meant different thing

### B. Divine process

#### 1. Divine must

Contrary to popular view, the Christ \*must\* suffer, and be rejected and be killed and rise again. There is no other way out.

#### 2. Easy option

When Jesus gave Peter the right meaning of what "the Christ" means, Peter couldn't find it hard to accept and rebuked Jesus (Matthew 16:22). Then Jesus used very strong words in rebuking Peter openly in sight and hearing of others. Peter tried to stop Jesus what he was meant to do on Earth. The other time Jesus used the same word was when Satan offered Jesus the easy option to having the Kingdom (Matthew 4:8-10)

Things of God - divine must - Divine process.

Did God actually say that?

Easy option - short cut - crown without cross; belief without obedience

### C. Follow Jesus

#### 1. Follow Jesus

Deny himself, take up the cross and follow Him. Deny himself doesn't mean depriving oneself from some desires, but it means giving up one's rights to our lives and choices (Phil 2:6-7) denied oneself vs denied Jesus

Peter denied Jesus (the natural impulse of self preservation)

Taking up one's cross, done publicly, no return (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

#### 2. Eternal decision

Spiritual wellness and eternal destiny

Verse 37 for what can a man give in return for his soul. What a man chooses will have indirect and subsequent consequences