

*Who do the people say that I am?*

Well the Muslims that say that you are a prophet who was granted special powers by God to show people the power of God. The orthodox Jews say that you are just a man like anyone else. New age thinkers say that you are one example, upon many, that might be followed to lead to a higher consciousness. Mormons say that you are Satan's spirit brother who had the best plan for salvation, so you were chosen over Satan to be the savior. Jehovah's witnesses say that you are Michael the archangel. Christian scientists say that you are a way-shower that leads us out of the illusion of a material world into the consciousness of a perfect spiritual world. Even most atheists say that you are a good moral teacher. Buddhists teach that you are one way to God, although not the only way. A majority of our society agrees. You are one to be believed in, among many, all equal in truth.

But Peter said correctly, you are the Christ. Your father had revealed that to him. But Peter didn't totally understand you yet either. He knew that you were God's anointed Messiah, but he thought you had come to oust the Romans and set up the new kingdom of Israel on earth. That is why you rebuked him and told him the truth about what the Christ was going to do, namely die and rise again.

*But who do you say that I am?*

You are the Christ, the son of the living God. You are God's anointed sin-bearer. As you told Peter, you are the one who came to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, be killed and after three days rise again. You are the one who took my sin to the cross and paid for it in full. You are the Christ who could not be held by death. You are the only way to heaven. No one comes to the father except through you. You are the way the truth and the life.

*Who do you tell the world that I am?*

Well, Lord, at times I have to admit that I have failed all together. It is not that I have confessed something false about you, but I have just failed to confess you at all. I know that my friends need you, need your forgiveness, but I have been too scared to say anything about you. All too often I have been quiet even when I knew that you have given me words to speak.

Other times, I just talk about you the way that those that I am around talk about you. If they say that you are a good moral teacher, I just agree. I don't tell them that you are much

more that good teacher. If the people I am around say that that you are one way to heaven, it is so hard to tell them that you are the only way. They are so convinced that as long as you believe in some God, you are okay. I get afraid to tell them that they can only come to the Father through you. I am afraid that I might offend someone with those words in this age of tolerance.

Other times, I want you to be the Christ that Peter wanted. I want you to make everything perfect for us Christian right now here on earth. I don't want to pick up my cross as you bid. If I follow you, I want life to be a little easier for me. I don't want to wait for heaven, I want it all now. But yet I know you said that being a Christians wouldn't be easy. I know that the world didn't like you, and they won't like those of us who truly follow you either.

*But who do you say that I am?*

You are the Christ, the son of the living God. You are God's anointed sin-bearer. As you told Peter, you are the one who came to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, be killed and after three days rise again. You are the one who took my sin to the cross and paid for it in full. You are the Christ who could not be held by death. You are the only way to heaven. No one comes to the father except through you. You are the way the truth and the life.

*Blessed are you my child for my father in Heaven has revealed this to you. Believe that which you confess. All your sins are forgiven through me. For every time you have been quiet when you should have spoken, you are forgiven. For every time you have confessed some truth about me, but not the whole truth, you are forgiven. And for each time that you have tried to make me into a Christ that I am not, you are forgiven. Who do you say that I am?*

You are the Christ, the son of the living God. You are God's anointed sin-bearer. As you told Peter, you are the one who came to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, be killed and after three days rise again. You are the one who took my sin to the cross and paid for it in full. You are the Christ who could not be held by death. You are the only way to heaven. No one comes to the father except through you. You are the way the truth and the life.

*Exactly, now go tell the world. Amen.*