

“Who do you say I am?”

Luke 9:18-27

Main ideas

**Jesus is the Messiah, and there
is a cost to follow Him**

“Who do you say I am?”

Luke 9:18-20

18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” **19** They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.” **20** “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

“Who do you say I am?”

**“The importance of this...
should not be missed. He sees
Jesus as God’s Promised Ruler,
though this category is short of
a full confession of deity.”**

Darrell Bock

“Who do you say I am?”

Matthew 16:16-18

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. **18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

“Who do you say I am?”

“The rock on which Jesus would build His church has been identified as:

- Jesus**
- Peter**
- Peter’s confession of faith**

“Who do you say I am?”

“The wordplay points to Peter as a leader among the apostles, who will play a foundational role in the early church. Once he [Peter] has fulfilled that role he will pass of the scene. He does not hold a permanent position that is passed on to others.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible
Background Commentary**

“Who do you say I am?”

Matthew 16:19-20

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **20** Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

“Who do you say I am?”

“Peter, as the representative disciple who first gives the first personal declaration of the Messiah’s identity, is the one in the book of Acts who opens the door to all people. On each of three occasions, it is Peter’s authoritative preaching and presence that opens the door to the kingdom-first to the Jews (c. 2), then to the Samaritans (c.8), and finally to the Gentiles (c.10).”

“Who do you say I am?”

“Since the keys metaphor suggests that Peter is the one given authority to open the door to the kingdom of heaven, the binding and loosing metaphor continues the theme by indicating that Peter is the one given authority

to declare the terms of forgiveness of sins under which God grants entrance to, and exclusion from, the kingdom. But Peter's role of binding and loosing is representative of what all disciples will experience, because share in the authority of "binding and loosing."

“Who do you say I am?”

John 20:22-23

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

“Who do you say I am?”

Luke 9:21-22

21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. **22** And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

“Who do you say I am?”

Isaiah 53:3-5

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed not.

4 Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows, yet we
considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted. **5** But
he was pierced for our
transgressions, he was crushed for
our iniquities; the punishment that
brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

“Who do you say I am?”

Matthew 16:22-23

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” **23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

“Who do you say I am?”

“Satan had tried to tempt Jesus away from carrying out His Father’s will at the start of His earthly ministry; he now uses a different strategy to accomplish the same goal: through Peter.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary**

“Who do you say I am?”

Luke 9:23-25

23 Then he said to them all: “if anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. **25** What good is it for man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?”

“Who do you say I am?”

“Criminals bore their own crosses as they journeyed to their death. Thus for a Christian to bear a cross is to be prepared to face rejection and death, even as one remains accountable to God for the path one walks. It means one has died to the world, separated from its values and lifestyles.”

Darrell Bock

“Who do you say I am?”

“The kind of self-denial He sought was not a reclusive asceticism, but a willingness to obey His commandments, serve one another, and suffer - perhaps even die - for His sake.”

John MacArthur

“Who do you say I am?”

Luke 9:26-27

26 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. **27** “ I tell you the truth some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

“Who do you say I am?”

“Luke’s Greek audience would have had difficulty understanding a God who could die, just as Jesus’ Jewish audience would have been perplexed by a Messiah who would let Himself be killed. Both would be ashamed of Jesus if they did not look past His death to His glorious resurrection and Second Coming.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“Who do you say I am?”

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Application

**We all must decide
who Jesus is**

Final Thoughts

“For believers today, it [the cross] means understanding that we belong to Him and we live to serve His purposes. Consider this: Do you think of your relationship with God primarily in terms of what’s in it for you, or in terms of what you can do for Him? Are you willing to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him? Anything less is not discipleship it is merely superficial lip service.”

Final Thoughts

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.