

I. Introduction – Who is Jesus? 9:9 5:21 8:25 7:49II. The disciples are given their mid-term exam – Who is Jesus? v. 18-20

A. The teacher prepares for the exam through prayer. v. 18a

1. Jesus needed regular communion with the Father. 3:21 5:16 6:12 9:28 11:1 22:41
2. For what was Jesus praying? Mt. 16:17

B. The teacher (Jesus) has prepared the students well. Isa. 61:1-2 35:5f

1. They witnessed His fulfillment of Messianic prophecy. 4:18-21 7:19-23 9:12-17
2. The reader of Luke's gospel has additional insight. 1:32-33,69-69,76-79
2:10-11,26,32,49 3:15-18,21-22,23-38

C. Jesus first asks what other people are saying about Him. v. 18b-19 9:11,12,16,37 4:42

1. Some suppose that Jesus is John the Baptist resurrected. 9:7,9 3:1-21 1:57-2:7
2. Others speculate that He is Elijah. 1:17 9:8,30 Mal. 4:5-6 3:1 John 1:21 Mark 9:11-12
3. Others suggest that Jesus is one of the other prophets (Jeremiah?) raised from the dead. Mt. 16:14 Deut. 18:15-18 1 Sam. 28:11ff
4. Is there any reasonable basis for their theories? Mt. 4:17 3:2 1 Ki. 17:8-24
5. Might some have even wondered if Jesus might be the Messiah? John 6:14-15
6. The Jewish leaders had a different (sinister) theory about Jesus' identity. 6:7 Mk 3:22
7. People today still underestimate Jesus. Jo. 14:6 1:1ff Acts 4:12 Col. 2:9 Ro. 12:1-2

D. Peter aces the exam. v. 20 Mt. 16:16

1. Who had recognized Jesus' identity prior to Peter? 4:3,34,41 8:28 1:32-33,69-69,76ff
2:10-11,26,32,49 3:15-18,21-22 7:18ff
2. Jesus accepts Peter's incredible declaration. Acts 10:26 14:11ff Rev. 19:10 22:9

E. How did Peter know the right answer?

1. The evidence is overwhelming. 4:18-21 7:19-23 9:12-17 5:8
2. God enabled Peter to understand. 9:18 Mt. 16:17 Mark 8:22
3. We also have overwhelming evidence as to Jesus' identity, but it is only by the work of the Holy Spirit that people understand and believe. 1 Co. 2:14 1:18 15:1ff
John 6:44 15:16 2 Co. 3:14 Js. 1:18 1 Pe. 1:23,3

III. The Teacher begins the next lesson – What does it mean to be the Messiah? v. 21-22

A. Why doesn't Jesus want His disciples telling everyone else that He is the Christ? v. 21

1. Who else has Jesus silenced? 4:34-35 8:56
2. The disciples did not understand what it means for Jesus to be the Messiah; therefore, they are not yet ready to tell others. 1 Tim. 3:6 5:22
3. Jesus does not want to create a premature crisis with the crowds. John 6:15-16
4. Later the disciples will be sent out to declare Jesus as the Christ to all the world. 22:44ff Mt. 28:18ff Acts 2:36 3:18 4:26 10:39-43

B. What should they have known about the Messiah (Anointed One)? 4:18 Isa. 61:1ff

1. The Christ had been promised from long ago. Gen. 3:15 1 Sa. 2:10 16:12-13
2. He is the long-awaited anointed prophet like Moses Who brings the final Word from God. Deut. 18:15,18 John 1:1,14 Heb. 1:1-3

3. He is the anointed priest like Aaron who performs the final and perfect sacrifice.
Heb. 6:20 9:11 John 1:29 Ex. 29:7,21
 4. He is the anointed Davidic King whose reign will be universal and everlasting.
2 Sam. 7:6,12-16 Ps. 89:20,35-37,4 2:2 Jer. 23:5-6 1 Sam. 16:13 Mic. 5:2 Isa. 9:7
 5. He is God the Son. 20:41-44 John 1:1-3,14 Col. 2:9 1:15-17 Ps. 110:1ff
- C. What did the crowds and the disciples expect the Messiah to be like? 22:66-70
John 6:15-16 Acts 1:6 Ps. 2:2 110:1ff
1. They didn't understand that the Scriptures teach that the Christ must first suffer before He would reign in glory. 24:6-7,25-27
 2. The disciples should have known better. 6:7 Isa. 52:13-53:12
 3. How do people today also misunderstand Jesus' present work?
- D. Jesus explains the nature of His messianic work. v. 22 9:44-45 12:50 13:31-33 17:25 18:31-34
1. Why does Jesus refer to Himself as "the Son of Man"? v. 22a 5:24 6:5 7:34 9:26,44,56,58 11:30 17:22 22:37 24:7,24-26,44 Mt. 16:13 Dan. 7:13-14
 2. Four things must happen to Jesus. 17:25 18:31-34 24:26
 - a. He must suffer many things.
 - b. He must be rejected by the Jewish leaders. 20:17 John 1:11
 - c. He must die. 20:14-15
 - d. He must be raised up on the third day. 24:26 18:33 Isa. 53:10-12 Rom. 1:4 4:25
 3. In what sense is Jesus' suffering and resurrection necessary? 17:25
 - a. It is the Father's will. 2:49 Isa. 53:10 Acts 2:23-24 3:18 John 3:16
 - b. It is necessary that the Scriptures be fulfilled. 24:25-27,44-48 22:37 20:17 Gen. 3:15 Ps. 118:22 22:1 Isa. 52:13-53:12 Dan. 9:26 Acts 17:2-3 26:22-23
 - c. Jesus' death and resurrection are necessary for our salvation. Gal. 3:13 2 Co. 5:21 Rom. 3:21ff 5:18-19 1 Pet. 3:18 2:24 Heb. 9:22-28 10:4ff Phil. 3:7-9
 4. Jesus understands and willingly submits to what is necessary. 9:51 Ps. 40:7-8 John 4:34 10:17-18 Isa. 53:7,10
- E. People take offense at a crucified Messiah.
1. Peter fails the second test. 18:31-34 Mt. 16:22-23
 2. The same devilish error is widespread today – people today still find the suffering and resurrection of Jesus offensive. 1 Co. 1:18ff

IV. Concluding applications – Who do you say Jesus is?

Discussion questions

1. How did people underestimate Jesus when He walked the earth?
2. Why are they without excuse?
3. How do people today underestimate Jesus?
4. Why are they without excuse?
5. How is it that Peter (and you) understand Jesus' true identity?
6. What misunderstanding did Peter and the other disciples have about the nature of Jesus' messianic mission?
7. How do people today misunderstand the nature of Jesus' present reign and what it means to be His follower?
8. Why is the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus still an offense to many?
9. How are the big questions in today's passage answered in the Lord's Supper?