

Whom Say Ye That I Am?

By Travis Burke

sermonaudio.com

Preached on: Sunday, September 7, 2014

Cozaddale Baptist Temple

10632 Eltzroth Road
Goshen, Ohio 45122

Website: www.cozaddale.org

Online Sermons: <http://www.sermonaudio.com/cozaddalebaptist>

Matthew 16. Thank you, Brother Calvin. Matthew 16. We're going to start reading in our text this morning in verse 13. Matthew 16:13. Get that figured out, Brother Steve, please. Let's stand as we read our Scriptures please in Matthew 16 and in verse 13 it says this,

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Father, I pray that, Lord, you take this message, I pray you use it for your honor and glory. I pray, Lord, that you would put a hedge about us now, Lord, as we do our best to lift up your Son, to speak of him and the Lord Jesus Christ. I know the devil would love to distract and detour. Father, I pray that you would put a special hedge about us now. I pray that my thoughts would be totally directed by you, my words and, Lord, I surrender myself, Lord, an unworthy servant. God, I just pray now that, Lord, you would speak to hearts. May, Lord, the Holy Spirit have free reign in our lives and, Lord, we would hear and grow and learn thereby. In your name I pray. Amen.

Thank you. Be seated.

When the Lord taught even from the very beginning in the book of Genesis, when the Lord began to teach, he would many times use questions in his teaching. You remember whenever Adam and Eve first sinned and the Lord came down, God did, and said, "Adam, where art thou?" Now, God knew where Adam was, right? God knew exactly where he was because our God knows everything but he was using that to teach Adam

because Adam and Eve needed to realize where they were and so many times, even especially in the Lord's ministry when he walked on this earth, he used questions to teach very important lessons and out of all the questions that he has ever asked, one of the most soul searching and most important questions are these in which we read here in this passage this morning. Without a doubt, every one of us need to answer this question: whom say ye that I am, the Lord said? Well, he is the eternal, the uncreated, the self-existing Son of God. He is Jesus. He is the Mighty One. He is our Creator. He is our God. Amen. And all true faith revolves around answering this question correctly. All false faiths, lies and cults out there are wrong on answering this question. You see it there in our passage of Scripture again in verse 13. He looks at his disciples and says, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

Now, he asked them that question and they gave an answer. We don't much talk about their answer but their answer, I think, is important. We look there at their answer in verse 14, the first thing they said is, "And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist." Now, why would they, some people say that he is John the Baptist? I think that represented the walk of the Lord Jesus Christ because John the Baptist, you have to give him this, he was unique. He walked in places where most people didn't walk. He lived and dressed in ways that most people did not dress. His diet was not one I would enjoy, alright? He ate locusts. Some people are weird and eat that kind of stuff. Not me, give me a hamburger. But that was him. He had a different walk. He was very bold in the way that he said what he did. The Bible says this about John the Baptist, "That there was a man sent from God." The Bible says this about John the Baptist, "That of all the men born of women, there is none greater than John the Baptist." He was a unique man in his walk, in the way that he lived his life and the things that he said. He was a very unique person. The disciples said, "Some say you are John the Baptist," because of that walk in which the Lord lived because truly you could say all the same things about our Lord too.

Then another disciples said, "Well, some say you are Elijah, Elias." Why would they call him Elias? What do we know about the prophet Elijah? We know this: he was a man of amazing works. Elijah did some amazing things. Elijah was the one who called down fire there on Mount Carmel. Elijah was the one who God did many miracles in his life. Elijah was the one who called back the widow's son and rose him back to life. Even in his departure, he left this earth in a very unique way, did he not? He was taken up in a whirlwind the Bible says. He was a man who did some amazing things, some many miracles. You can study the life of Elijah but the disciples said, "Lord, some people say you are Elijah," and I believe that is because of the many wonderful works that Jesus Christ did. We could sit here and talk all day about all the amazing things that our Lord Jesus Christ did in his earthly ministry.

Another of the disciples said, "Well, Lord, some people say you are Jeremiah." What do we know about Jeremiah? He was a man weeping, a man of woes. The Bible says about Jeremiah, "There was a fountain and my eyes filled with tears." He would weep for his people. We know that Jesus, we know this about Jesus from the book of Isaiah, "he was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief." We read in Scripture how the Lord Jesus looked over Jerusalem and he wept for Jerusalem. When he stood at the graveside of a friend

who had died, tears filled his eyes and went down his cheeks as he heard the people moaning and crying and weeping and they did not see the truth and the reality that was Jesus and he wept with them. I believe that we don't know the half of it, the brokenness and the broken heart of the Lord Jesus as he walked on this earth. Some said, "Well Lord, some people say you are Jeremiah," no doubt because of his weeping, sorrow, the burden that he bore.

Another disciples said, "Well Lord, some say you are one of the prophets." What were the prophets known for? Their words. Their preaching, "Thus saith the Lord." They proclaimed the truth. They declared the truth. They went, no matter what, how anyone else felt and what they said, the prophets are the ones who stood up and said, "This is what is right." They did it with a heart of compassion.

So they said, "Lord, some people say you are John the Baptist," probably because of his walk. "Some people say you are Elijah," probably because his works. "Some people say you are like Jeremiah," because of his weeping. "Some say you are like the prophets," probably because of his words. But even though all 5 of those are wonderful pictures and tremendous men and praise God for them, they don't come close to how great our God is. All the great preaching that the prophets did, all the great works that Elijah did, all of the great, the uniqueness and the walk of John the Baptist, all of the weeping that Jeremiah did and the burden that he had comes nowhere close to that of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the Lord Jesus Christ looked at the disciples and he asked an impersonal question but then he makes it very personal. Look at verse 15, he says, "But whom say ye that I am?" You know, that question, I want us all to answer this morning. "Whom say ye that I am?" Jesus said. Who is Jesus to you? Who is Jesus? I mean, we can sit there and we sang all about him this morning. We sang all about our Lord this morning and we sang, Brother David said, it's a privilege to be able to sing his praises this morning so as we sang, "Jesus saves. Jesus save," did you stop and think that he really does save? Hallelujah, what a Savior! Did we stop? What is Jesus to you?

I will quickly share with you. I told my wife last night, I got done looking over the message last night again and I told her, I said, "I really don't think I'm going to get through this message this morning. Maybe I can finish it tomorrow night and we'll go as far as God tells us to because this is important this morning." You know, Jesus is not just a name. Jesus should not just be God, just simply, "Oh, that's God." He ought to mean everything to you. He ought to be precious to you. So don't say that, I am," I present to you number 1: I say that Jesus is God in his presence. He is God in his presence. You say, "What do you mean by that?" I believe that God exists in 3 persons. I believe that there is one God, 3 persons. In Genesis 1:26, when God created the heaven and the earth, when God made man, God said, "Let us make man in our image." I'm not about to try to expound to you so that every one of us would have a great understanding of what the Trinity is. That's hard to do. They've been trying to do that for thousands of years and we just can't quite grasp that because we have very human minds, alright? But I will say this according to the word of God that there is one God in 3 persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and I believe that when Jesus walked and talked on this

earth, I believe that Jesus is God. I believe that each one has a separate distinct yet each one of them are God. I believe all the attributes that you read about God the Father, you can read about God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are all God. They are all omniscient. They are all omni-present. Those are fancy words to say that they know everything and can do anything. God is holy. God is truth. God is love. And before Jesus came to this earth, he existed as God.

Look over in Hebrews real quick. Hebrews, if you read your Bibles a little bit, there is nothing wrong with that, amen? Hebrews 1, real quick with me. Hebrews 1. You feel inadequate to preach about Jesus. I remember whenever as you're turning there, I went and the first time I got to preach in Chicago, Illinois, downtown, I went there to the Pacific Garden Mission. It's a mission right in the middle of downtown where they bring in the drunks and the drug addicts and for years and years they have been preaching the Gospel and seeing people get saved. It was there the evangelist Billy Sunday, who was a drunken baseball player, got saved and became an evangelist and thousands of people were saved under his ministry. I got to preach at that pulpit to a bunch of people who just came in off the street and I stood up there and I was just about 19 years old. I was extremely intimidated by the crowd. You all are friendly and nice, alright? They were sitting there across from me that day and they were ugly and mean. They looked at me like grrr. "We came for the food." That's the way it was, alright? And I walked up there scared to death and there in the pulpit was a bronze plaque that just said, "Sir, we desire that you just preach Jesus." I never forgot it. I had a message all fancy for that crowd that night but I got up there and looked at that and said, "God said just preach Jesus." There is no greater topic that you can preach on than to preach about Jesus.

Hebrews 1, look at verse 3. We'll look at verse 2 first, "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son," that's Jesus, "whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." Look what it says about Jesus, "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Do you know who Jesus is in this passage of Scripture? He is the radiance of God's glory. I can't fully explain that but that's what the Bible says and I get excited reading it. He is, look at it, the brightness of his glory and when Jesus came to this earth, he came, he is the very image of God.

You remember Philip in the book of John 14, Philip said, "Jesus, show us the Father." Now, what did Philip want? He wanted probably in his mind a lot like the book of Isaiah when Isaiah saw the full essence of God and he bowed on his face and he saw him high and lifted up and he fell on his face and said, "Holy, holy, holy is God." Philip said, "Lord, would you show us the Father?" And Jesus said these words, "He that has seen me has seen the Father. I and my Father are one." That, for anybody else, that's a crazy statement. If, I'll take Brother Johnson back there, if he were to walk up and say, "Hey Travis, I'd like to see your dad." "Brother John, if you've see me, you have seen my dad." No, you are Travis, he's Wayne. No, alright? Now, we may have some resemblances, stunningly good-looking, you know, other things like that. I'm just kidding. Some of you just woke up, "What did he say?" There may be some resemblances but I'm not my dad.

He is not me. We are different. There is no doubt, you look at Corby, that's Shane's son. It's pretty obvious but Shane is not Corby. Corby is not Shane. But Jesus is God and Jesus said and no one ever questioned it because it's the absolute truth, "If you have seen," Jesus said, "me, you have seen the Father." Jesus is all that God is. He is the glory and the essence of God. He is the image of his substance. Everything that God is we see in Christ. What a Savior we have. He is God in his presence.

You ask me, "Whom say ye that I am?" Number 2, I say this: he is God in his person. God in his person. Turn over to Colossians, back a few pages from where you're at. Colossians 2:9 says this about our Lord Jesus Christ, this is important, Colossians 2:9, "For in him," that's Jesus, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Bodily. Now, listen closely, there has been a lot of false teaching going out in this world about this topic: when Jesus came to this earth, he did not surrender his deity. When he became man, there was a change in his position but not in his person. He is the perfect blending of deity and humanity and it's what is being talked about over in the book of Philippians.

Turn back just a few pages. Philippians 2. This is an important topic. I don't want you to take Travis Burke's thoughts and words on this because they don't matter. I want you to see what the word of God says. Philippians 2:5 says this, just a few pages back, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Now, pay attention to these words, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." I want you to notice real quick there in verse number 6, "Who, being in the form of God." My mommy is a grammar teacher. She taught me a lot. I'm not as good as she is, you can hear that by listening to me but I know this: that is a present verb, "being." Paul did not say "Who was in the form of God." He didn't say that. Paul said, "Who, being in the form of God." He existed in the form of God before he came to this earth, while he was on this earth and forever in glory, he is God. Jesus is God. He has always been God. And he will always be God.

He is God in his presence. He is God in his person. I present to you number 3: he is God in his power. He is God in his power. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the all powerful God. Our Lord Jesus Christ, listen, created everything. Our Lord Jesus Christ when he walked on this earth demonstrated his power. He took that water at the marriage feast in Cana and made it into wine. He walked on top of the waves. We get so used to things we don't think about them. Go ahead and try it today. You will find out you're like a rock, right? You and me, we'd go, "We can't walk on the waves." It defies all the laws of nature but God is more powerful than all the laws of nature. He stood on the top of that boat, in the mast of that boat when the storm blew hard and the waves were crashing, "Shh," and they all obeyed him because he's an Almighty God. He took his loaves, we preached on Thursday night, a few loaves and fishes, blessed it, broke it, fed nearly 10,000 people with it because he is God. They would bring the sick to him. No doctors could fix anything but he could. There are those who were blind from birth, Jesus touched their eyes and they could see again. There were those who were lepers living an outcast life,

doomed to die, but the Lord said the word and they were clean. There were people who were filled with demonic activity and demons possessed them and controlled them and the spiritual darkness had control in their life and the Lord just said the word and they all obeyed him and they fled because he's an Almighty, all-powerful God. And the only thing that scared us is that of death and the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross and died for us and he died and was buried but he rose again, showing that he has power even over death and hell. He is the all powerful God. That's why he could say before he ascended in Matthew 28 before he gave the Great Commission, he said these words, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

"Whom do ye say that I am?" I believe he is God in his presence. I believe he is God in his person. I believe he is God in his power. And I believe this: he is God in his passion. That blood that he shed for us, the Bible says this and I amen it: it was precious blood. If his life, now look at me, if his life was merely human, he could not have died for the sins of the world. I try to be very careful with my words because I don't want to say this wrong but I believe we are on holy ground when we save these things: if his life was merely a human life, then the best we've got according to the book of Deuteronomy is just a life for a life. His death could not take away our sins. But the Bible says when he died, he died and took away the sins of the world. Now, how could he, there is only one way that he could die for the sins of all. How could his one life die for all the lives that have ever been on this earth? There is only one way and that is this: his life is an eternal life. Amen. That his blood was precious blood. He was God in the flesh.

Here's the reality: if we were to take and this would be a huge number, but if we were to take and count every person who has ever been alive on this earth, while we have no idea what that number is, the reality is this: that number could be counted. Not by humans but I guarantee God knows how many lives have been on this earth. That is a finite number. If we could count all the sins that have been committed on this earth, what a number that would be. Just in this room, unfortunately. But that is a number that God could count. Those are finite numbers. But when he died, his life is an infinite life which means that his death could cover all the sins of the world and die for every soul who has ever been. When he laid down his life, he showed the ultimate love for you and I. "Greater love has no man than this that a man would lay down his life for his friend."

He is God, 5: in his preeminence. In his preeminence. "Whom do ye say that I am?" I say the Lord Jesus is God in his preeminence. You say, "What do you mean by that?" That there is none like him and that he alone is preeminent in all things. Can I show you what the Bible says? Look at this real quick. We'll try to wrap this up. Look in John 8 real quick. John 8. Isn't he wonderful? Amen. John 8, we're going to need our Bibles real quick to look at 5 verses real quickly with me in John 8. Look with me in verse 53. I say he is God in his preeminence. I want to show you what was said about him in the Gospel. John 8:53, all these people are gathered around Jesus and they said, "Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?" They said, "Are you better?" You see, understand, to the Jew, Abraham, he was it, man. Abraham, he was the man. Abraham, everything started with Abraham. To the

Jew, he was the most important and the greatest person to them. They said, "Are you saying that you're greater than Abraham?" His response will be, "Yes," and he is, amen?

Look back in John 4. We're going to go quick. John 4, look with me in verse 11. John 4:11, look at this with me real quick, "The woman saith unto him, Sir," this is the woman at the well talking to Jesus, "thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well?" Do you know what the Lord would teach this lady? She said, "Alright now, are you greater than our father Jacob?" To the Jews, Jacob was the greatest patriarch. From him come the 12 tribes. "Are you greater than Jacob, our father?" Do you know what the Lord would tell her? "Yes, I am," and he is, amen? Abraham was their founding father, a friend of God. Jacob, the great patriarch. From him the 12 tribes. He wrestled with the angel.

Look back in Luke 11. I tried to put them in somewhat of an order so that we could go quickly, going backwards to Luke 11, verse 31, real quick. Jesus is speaking here. He says, "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Now the Lord speaks and says, "Remember Solomon? Do you remember Solomon? King Solomon was the great prince of the Jews. King Solomon, there was not another and a greater King like him who had all the splendor and all the riches, all the wisdom. Solomon was something to behold and to the Jews, their greatest King." Jesus said, "Do you remember Solomon? There is someone greater than Solomon."

Then Matthew 12. Are you getting excited about the Lord? Isn't he great? Matthew 12, look at verse 41 real quick. Matthew 12, we'll start at verse 40. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." To the Jews, now we're a little biased because we look at Jonah, we've read so many messages on the downfalls of Jonah that we look at at him and say, "He did one thing right but boy, what a loser." I mean, that's what we think about Jonah. He ran from God. He spent 3 days in a great fish. He was vomited up. He went and preached and all these people got saved and then he pouted and died, alright? Well, there was more to his life than that. I want you to know it from studying other Scriptures. But to the Jews, you have to understand, let's stop and look at it just through some spiritual eyes here and thankfully how God looks at thing many times. He ignores our faults many times and all the failures that all of us have and the Lord looks with great grace upon our lives many times. Do you know what Jonah did? Something that no one that I have ever met or heard of has ever done either: he went into Ground Zero of worldliness; he went into Ground Zero of a world empire where sin was at its wickedest and men, where every imagination was wicked and he walked into the city of Nineveh that he hated so bad because of their wickedness that he didn't want to go. He wasn't just running from God because he was mad at God, he hated Nineveh. Nineveh was everything that stood against God. Nineveh hated the Jews. Nineveh hated everything

that was godly. He said, "Why should I go there?" Well, he eventually went and do you know in one day of preaching the entire city turned to God. Wow! Now, we are very critical of Jonah but why don't we send somebody to Cincinnati and see if they turn the city around in a day. See if the mayor gathers everyone together and puts everyone in sackcloth and ashes and says, "Let's fall on our face! We deserve judgment! We must repent of our sins!" I've never seen it, have you? It probably isn't going to happen in Goshen, much less Nineveh. Millions upon millions of people. But Jonah went in there, preached a day and the entire town turned to God. Pretty good. But God says, "Do you remember him? There is one greater than Jonah here." Amen?

Look over one more, Matthew 12 and look with me in verse 6, "But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple." They were standing there in the temple, a place where it was built upon the very location where Abraham offered his son, Isaac. A place where the glory of God filled that place. Where the sacrifices for the sins of the people were made right there in the temple. The temple was a holy place to the Jews. It was everything to the Jews. Jesus said, "Do you know this temple? Isn't this great? Do you see this temple? There is one here greater than all of this."

So Jesus in these 5 instances talking and shows us about himself. Now, when it came to the Jews greatest person, Abraham. When it came to their greatest patriarch, Jacob. When it came to their greatest prince, Solomon. When it came to their greatest prophet, Jonah. When it came to their greatest place, the temple. Jesus said, "I am greater than all of these." The Bible says that in all things, he might have the preeminence. He is our God.

"Whom say ye that I am?" He is God in his preeminence. He is God in his position. God in his position. Can I read to you a verse real quick in Hebrews 1:7? Listen closely, "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire." Now, I want you to please listen, this is Hebrews 1:8, just listen real quickly, "But unto the Son," listen to what I say, "unto the Son he saith." Now, who is the "he"? The "he" is God. "Unto the Son he saith." So God is talking to who? Jesus. Listen to his words. These are God's words to Jesus. Are you ready? Are you with me? Are you on the edge of your seat? Ready? "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever." Did you hear what God said to Jesus? "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever." God called Jesus God. Take that, Jehovah Witness. Amen? God called Jesus God. He said, "You, this is your throne." Why could a holy, just, perfect God say that? Because Jesus has all rights because he is God and Jesus will and does sit upon that throne. When Lucifer tried to sit upon that throne, he was cast from heaven because that throne is holy. That throne belongs only for God. That is the very throne where the Seraphim are above it and behind it and they hide their faces with their wings because of the glory of that throne and on that throne sits our Jesus. Amen.

I got through it. Last point. "Whom say ye that I am?" He is God in his permanence. In Hebrews, I'll read this last verse to you. Listen closely. Chapter 13 and verse 8, says this, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

"Whom say ye that I am?" He is God in his person. He is God in his power. He is God in his passion. He is God in his preeminence. He is God in his position. And he is God in his permanence. He will always be God. He is the God of yesterday. He is the God of today. And he is the God for all of eternity. He was, look at me, the God before there was a world. He is the God while there is a world. And he will forever be the God after this world. He is the God who came before. He is the God that is. And he is the God that will forever be. He is Immanuel, he is God with us. He is our Lord God over all, blessed for ever more. He is God, the Living Word. He is God, the great I Am. He is the God of the King of kings and the Lord of lords and the greatest part about everything is this: he is my Savior. Is he yours? "Whom say ye that he is?"