

## WHO DOES JESUS THINK HE IS?!?!

### SERMON OUTLINE

**Introduction:** We must continue to learn and implement the Lord's primary measurement for success, namely faithfulness.

### 1. Follow Jesus despite the astonishment + cynicism of others

*Mark 6:2-3* ... and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?"

*Psalms 5:1-2* Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. 2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

*Romans 8:38-39* For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Cynicism may be countered by processing pain (pray the lament psalms like Psalm 5), learning what Scripture has to say about every good work (2 Tim 3:16), practicing forgiveness, replacing jaded notions about people with the truth that God is working overtime to redeem all creation (Rom 8:22).

### 2. Follow Jesus despite the resentment of others

*Mark 6:3* ... And they took offense at him.

*1 Peter 2:23* When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

*Mark 11:25* And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

- Mistakenly many of us presume that forgiven should erase our bitter pasts. "Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future." (Lewis Smedes)

### 3. Follow Jesus despite the unbelief of others

*Mark 6:6* And he marveled because of their unbelief.

*John 7:14-18* - 14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. 15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" 16 So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. 18 The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

- The two essential elements in a growing faith are a thoroughgoing openness to Jesus and an ongoing extensive responsiveness to the whole person of Jesus as both Son of Man and Son of God.

To integrate this message with your daily reflection and action:

- Pray explicitly, boldly, and faithfully each day about a particular impediment to following Jesus. Admit you are helpless and need the Lord's powerful help. Express exactly how you feel about it to God, knowing that because of the Spirit of Christ, He fully understands and will act accordingly. Look to see how your prayers were answered.
- What struck you as personally significant in the message? How, specifically, does this intersect with your life in Christ? How might God be speaking to you through this word?
- We meditate upon the gospel text by reading Mark 6:1-6. We are urged to not measure Jesus by his blue collar profession. Likewise, many American Christians should seek forgiveness and repent for our bias of viewing our sisters and brothers with lower paying jobs as demeaning. Ponder the truth of this statement: "What we should bear in mind is that every type of work on earth and in all the universe is God's work, and as such it should be performed from the heart, without reservation. When we do so, we can free ourselves from our interior resistance. Every action of ours will then help our neighbor..." - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica
- We pray the gospel text by praying for more openness and responsiveness toward Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Only through openness to Jesus and an engagement of obedience will our trust in God's plan of the crucified life become more appealing to us.
- We live the gospel text by believing the truth of this gospel text that Jesus was not born into status, did not have derived status and thus lived with shame in his own culture. Likewise, we treat others with the greatest dignity and respect no matter their income, status, or popularity. We resist the urge to seek status in our lives.