

LUKE I Who Do You Say That I Am? Luke 9:18–22

The Identity and Mission of Jesus

—Bill Turner

1. Jesus ministry in Galilee was coming to an end—He is Set to go to Jerusalem
2. But Jesus is about to bring His disciples to another level of understanding

A Deeper, Spiritual Understanding of His True Identity and Mission...

I. THE TRUE IDENTITY OF JESUS (9:18-20)

A. ‘WHO DO THE CROWDS SAY THAT I AM?’ (Luke 9:18–19)

1. **There were many misunderstandings about Who Jesus was...**
 - a) But the people knew He was like no one else alive at that time...
 - b) So Some said He was John the Baptist, or Elijah, or one of the Prophets
 - c) John announced Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
2. **But the Pharisees decided Jesus was NOT the Messiah they Wanted...**

So they launched a scorched earth smear campaign against Him

 - a) They claimed Jesus was a **Glutton and Drinker...**
 - b) A **friend of sinners...** a **false teacher** leading the people astray...
 - c) That He **Violated the Sabbath** and **Transgressed the Traditions of the Elders**
 - d) That **He had a demon...**and **Cast out Demons by the power of satan**
 - e) That He **made Himself a King...** and **forbade giving taxes to Caesar**
 - f) That Jesus claimed **He would Destroy the Temple**
3. **ALL LIES! But the common people Knew Jesus was a Prophet from God**
 - a) No one ever spoke as Jesus did or Taught as Jesus did
 - b) No one had ever done the miracles Jesus could do...
 - c) After He Calmed a Storm in front of their very eyes they said,
“who can this be that even the wind and waves obey Him!”

B. ‘BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?’ (Luke 9:20)

1. **It’s One Thing to Know What the Crowds Think—Now He Focuses this question Directly and Personally to His disciples...**
 - a) They’d heard the critics and the rumors...
 - b) But They Had Also Seen His Miracles and Heard His Teaching!
 - c) They Saw Jesus Give Sight to the Blind! Cure Leprosy and Raise the Dead!
2. **Peter says what they have all been wrestling with—You are the Christ!**
 - a) Christ is Greek translation of Hebrew Word Messiah—that Means the Anointed One
 - b) In OT Times—Prophets, Priests and Kings were anointed by God
 - c) But the Messiah Would Be Anointed All Three—Prophet, Priest AND King!
3. **Truth is Not Based on Popular Opinion—Truth is Ultimate Reality**
 - a) Jesus is bringing the disciples to another level of spiritual understanding
 - b) He Expects their Understanding to be higher than Popular Opinion
 - c) And He expects our understanding of Truth to be higher as well

C. THEN JESUS WARNS THEM: 'TELL THIS TO NO ONE' (9:21)

Why Would Jesus warn them and command them to tell no one?

The Truth is Dangerous in the Wrong Hands...

1. 1st—This Truth Has Massive Implications the Disciple weren't aware of yet
2. 2nd—Announcing too soon could disrupt the Divine Timetable of Jesus Death
Which must be at an exact time of the Passover
3. 3rd—This truth was a Bombshell... that could cause Riots by Those Who
—See Jesus as a **POLITICAL MESSIAH**
 - a) Remember when Jesus fed the 5,000 they said Truly this is THE great prophet...
 - b) Then they wanted to take Him by force and make Him king (John 6:14)

Before they could preach Jesus was the Messiah, they had to learn what that meant.

II. THE TRUE MISSION OF JESUS (9:21-22)

A. THE MISSION OF THE MESSIAH WAS NOT...

1. To create a Political Revolution > Or a Health and Wealth Utopia >
2. Or Rule on a Throne From Jerusalem > Overthrow the Caesar in Rome
3. Or Make Israel a Super-Power Nation > or Positions of Power for Disciples
 - a) So they can drag their enemies through the streets > Or call fire down from heaven

B. THE TRUE MISSION OF THE MESSIAH WAS... (9:22)

1. **THE SON OF MAN MUST...** An important word here is **must**.
 - a) This was not just an idea or a prediction...
 - b) This is the fulfillment of a plan before time began! (1 Peter 1:19-20)
2. **MUST SUFFER**: Jesus was whipped/beaten beyond recognition (**Isaiah 52:14**)
3. **BE REJECTED**: 'He was despised and rejected by men',
the Disciples fled from Him — 'and we hid our faces from Him'
4. **BE KILLED**: 'He was pierced for our transgressions'... His hands and His feet
were pierced with the cruelest form of execution devised by evil man.
5. **BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD**: He was rejected, smitten, stricken, beaten,
whipped, marred beyond recognition and finally killed to be raised the third day

C. THE SHOCK TO THE DISCIPLES CANNOT BE EXPRESSED IN WORDS...

1. **Israel waited Centuries for the promised Messiah & Now They Will Kill Him!?**
 - a) The King Who Would Rule the Nations With a Rod of Iron?
 - b) And Dash Them to Pieces Like a Potters Vessel? (Ps. 2)
2. **Peter Said—NO! This will not happen to you... We Won't Let it Happen!**
Jesus "turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (Matthew 16:23)
3. **They Can't Preach Jesus is the Messiah Until They Know What it means**

III. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. TRUTH IS POWER—AND IS A THREAT TO THOSE IN POWER

1. **Because Truth Has Massive Implications for our life and our eternity!**

- a) John the Baptist Told the Truth—and was beheaded for it
- b) Jesus told the truth and was Crucified for it

2. **So one of the Reasons Jesus told them not to reveal His Identity yet was because of the timing of the explosive repercussions...**

- a) HG Wells described the climate of fear that was spreading...

“He was too great for his disciples. And in view of what he plainly said, is it any wonder that all who were rich and prosperous felt a horror of strange things, a swimming of their world at his teaching? Perhaps the priests and the rulers and the rich men understood him better than his followers. He was dragging out all the little private reservations they had made... into the light of a universal religious life.

In the white blaze of this kingdom of His there was to be no property, no privilege, no pride and precedence; no motive indeed and no reward but love. Is it any wonder that men were dazzled and blinded and cried out against him? Even his disciples cried out when he would not spare them the light.

“Is it any wonder that the priests realized that between this man and themselves there was no choice but that he or the priesthood should perish? Is it any wonder that the Roman soldiers, confronted and amazed by something soaring over their comprehension and threatening all their disciplines, should take refuge in wild laughter, and crown him with thorns and robe him in purple and make a mock Caesar of him?

For to take him seriously was to enter upon a strange and alarming life, to abandon habits, to control instincts and impulses, to essay an incredible happiness....

Is it any wonder that to this day this Galilean is too much for our small hearts?” (H.G. Wells)

3. **The Truth is Dangerous—whether you believe it or not!**

- a) Why do you think the media is constantly trying to protect politicians?
- b) Why is there a constant spin for a PC Narrative?
 - But Popular Opinion Won’t Change the Truth!

B. THE CREATOR OF TIME AND SPACE ENTERED TIME AND SPACE

1. **The Word Became Flesh! –The Logos Became Human!**

Diety was Clothed in Humanity! — Fully God and Fully Human

2. **This is Why Compartmentalizing Christ as just a good teacher won’t work**

- a) **CS Lewis:** “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher... Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him... or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come away with any patronizing nonsense about His being only a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

3. **Some want to Say Jesus was a Good person, a good moral teacher**

- a) A “good person” doesn’t claim to be God!
- b) A “good person” does not claim to forgive sin
- c) A “good person” doesn’t say, Before Abraham Was I AM!
- d) A “good person” doesn’t say, No one can go to the Father except through me!

**C. JESUS CAME TO EARTH IN HUMAN FORM—NOT TO BE SERVED,
BUT TO SERVE—AND GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR US!**

1. Jesus could have called down 12 legions of angels!
—But this was the Plan from Before Time Began!
2. He Allowed Himself to be Executed by Wicked Men...
—In Order to be the Atoning Sacrifice for our sins
3. When the Prophet John saw Jesus for the first time he said:
“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn 1:29)
The Gospel in a Single Sentence! — God’s Plan Before Time Began!
4. Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Entire Old Testament Sacrificial System
 - a) He is Our Passover Lamb
 - b) He is Our Atoning Sacrifice for Sin
 - c) He is High Priest
 - d) He is the Fulfillment of the Temple
 - e) He is the Eternal King

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus asked His disciples what the crowds thought...
But it’s Not Enough to Know What Others Think,
or your Parents think, or your friends think...
2. Who Do You Say that I AM?
This is not about WHAT you know—but WHO you know
 - a. Jesus True Identity is so Critical that its Necessary for our salvation!
 - b. When the Ethiopian Treasurer was Reading Isaiah 53
he wanted to know who this was talking about...
 - c. The Holy Spirit Sent Phillip who teaches him about Jesus (**Acts 8:35–39**)
 - d. This is The Good Confession We All Must Make