

WHO IS JESUS? // Luke 9:7-9, 18-22

From the series, The Gospel of Luke

Without confession, there is no conversion.

Over the course of several chapters, Luke points to different people asking in different ways, “Who is Jesus?” From the people astonished at his ability to cast out demons to the Pharisee’s indignation that he would forgive sins to the disciples marveling that the wind and seas obey him, they all ask, “Who is this?” Chapter 9 of Luke marks a turning point in the narrative--the close of the Galilean ministry and the beginning of the move toward Jerusalem, and Peter’s response to the question “who is Jesus?” form the last words of the section: “the Christ of God” (v. 20). In looking back over the past few chapters, we can see that Peter has been in the process of getting to the point of making this confession. We too, are in process; we will also be asked, “Who do you say that I am?” A true confession is more than mental assent or moral adjustment; it exhibits the following characteristics.

Characteristics of a True Confession:

1. A proper assessment of false commentary

Jesus first asks the disciples, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” The answers are varied and inaccurate. Understanding who Jesus is must begin with understanding who Jesus is **not**.

2. A pressure point within the tension of time

The process may take months, even years, but it eventually comes to a single point--a moment in time in which we must answer the same question: who is Jesus?

3. A personal decision of the will

We don’t become Christians and grow spiritually through osmosis; it’s not about our family’s faith or background. It’s an individual volitional act.

4. A public profession before watching witnesses

There is no private Christianity. Confession assumes profession--a public proclamation.

5. A precise interpretation of the person and work of Christ

We not only mentally assent that Jesus lived, died, and was resurrected, but we claim him as Lord and savior. He took our place and died our death. Jesus is mine, and I am his.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is some of the false commentary we hear about who Jesus is? How can we be discerning in this area?
2. Why is confession important? Consider Luke 12:8, Romans 10:9-10, and 1 John 2:23, 4:3.
3. Where are we in the process? Have we moved beyond mental assent and moral adjustment?