

Word notes Sunday 11/01/09 Tony Hodge
Jesus: Who do you say I am?

Summary

When Jesus asked his disciples what people were saying about him, then who they said he was Simon Peter's reply that he was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, was key to Jesus' ministry with them. Peter's revelation, not by learning or any human way but from God, set Peter and the other disciples on a path that changed their lives completely.

It's crucial to our message that we know who Jesus is – that we too have had this revelation and responded to him. Jesus goes on to say that on this revelation he will build his church and not even the gates of hell will stop it.

Other sects and faiths say different things about Jesus, who he was/is and who the Christ is and the relationship between the two. Christianity stands on the rock of Jesus – that he is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one of God, anointed to set people free.

We can read much about Jesus in the Gospels – his life, ministry, death and resurrection. We can find more in the Old Testament through prophecy, typology and other revelations but only when we know in our heart of hearts that Jesus is the Christ, revealed by the Holy Spirit, that we can move on into work for him.

So...who do you say Jesus is. In the deepest parts of your being is he the Christ

Application

Ask for one or two (or more if it encourages folk) people to share their experience of knowing Jesus as Christ, Lord and Saviour. Try to include a variety of experience – the "Damascus Road" revelation, more gradual understanding or growing up in a believing family and finding deeper experiences as one grows up – all are valid.

With different experiences what things are common to all?

If our experiences are different how does this affect our expectations of evangelism? Is there a 'one size fits all' way to evangelize or do we all have something to give?

Witness:

How would you share your testimony of being saved in a simple way? Ask for a volunteer (or do this yourself) to share their story **in three minutes**.

Homework – each member is to think about and prepare their story to share in **three minutes** answering the question: "How & Why did you become a Christian?" to share with the Cell over the next few weeks.

This may seem simplistic but has two goals – to help us be prepared and coherent should we be asked, and to encourage each other with our stories.