



Let's start with these questions this week -

If someone asks your neighbors who you are, how would they answer?

If someone asks your family the same question, how would they answer?

Read Luke 9:18-20

"Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."" - Luke 9:18-20 ESV

Why do you think Jesus asks the disciples this question?

Was it a test? Do you think He was trying to feed his ego?

What is a Christian? Literally "Little Christs"

John Wooden quote - Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Character is what you really are, reputation is what people say you are.

Why did Luke make it a point to mention that Jesus was praying alone? (Actually, He was not completely alone because His disciples were close. He was away from the big crowds that they had been around for a while so He was alone with the disciples.)

Jesus moved from their ideas of what they thought the crowd thought of Him to ask the disciples, Who do you say that I am?

Matthew 16:15-17 is a parallel account with a little more added - Jesus says more to Peter for his willingness to allow God to reveal truth of who Jesus is. Flesh and blood (your reasoning alone did not convince you this, but God Himself.) Because God first loved us we can then respond to that love. We are never the initiator of love but it flows from God Himself to us.

Michael discussed some ways we encounter Jesus.

Introduction – we are all introduced somehow to Jesus.

- Either sought out by Jesus (like the disciples)
- You are brought to Jesus by a friend or loved one or maybe even a stranger.

How did you first come to know Jesus? (Take time to hear from folks in your group)

Information – We learn more and share more about Him. . .

Through His Word -

Through our testimony – how God has changed and is continuing to transform our lives.

Interestingly enough, we can get an introduction and information to Jesus and still miss who Jesus really is.

Peter got who Jesus was only by the grace of God, not through his own observation or knowledge. God revealed it to Peter.

Illumination – to shine light on the truth of God. We need God to turn on the light for us and illuminate the truth of who Jesus is.

Jesus lets them know what is coming in Luke 9:21-22 and they still forget what He told them.

21 *And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, 22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”*

We are a forgetful people and in this case, it might be good because Jesus told them to tell them no one. This was a temporary instruction. He did not want the will of the Father to be pre-empted so He instructed them to hold off sharing the news of His impending death and resurrection. The disciples did great. They forgot what He predicted.

Matthew 28:16-20 - this is a permanent instruction and one to be adhered to and shared.

16 *Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

The word Christian occurs 3 times and the word disciple occurs 268 times in Scripture.

Galatians 6:1 - Bear one another's burdens . . .

Introduce people to Jesus. Be a disciple making disciples.

How Do We Do this As We Live?

How to make disciples . . .

1. Introduce someone to Jesus
(Why do you live, work, go to school, play where you do? It is not by accident. Remember our first question about who our neighbors might describe us? You live where you live on purpose.)
 - through God's Word
 - through you living like Jesus - testifying about who Jesus is.

Is the message of good news been lost or stolen with you? Are you sharing the grace of Christ with others?

Many choose not to share in fear of what their reputation might become. Be concerned with your character.

2. Share more information. - Study God's Word together. Invite them to church, youth group, community group, etc.
3. Pray for illumination.

The more we discover about God the more we realize how sinful we really are. God reveals my sinful heart but does not leave me in my sin, despair and death. He brings new life through His grace. We need a perfect Savior and Jesus is just the One we need.

Encourage your group to pray for one another this week.