

# TALKING POINTS

## WHO IS JESUS? - PART 1

### LEARNING IN

What people call us, matters to us. How people identify us is critical.

There was a time in history where Jesus met with his disciples, before asking the most important question ever about His identity. Jesus took His disciples to a place called Caesarea Philippi. This place was an epicenter for world religions and worldly influences. This is where people would come for help by dedicating their lives, their businesses, their homes, their lands, to these false gods.

It was as if Jesus deliberately set himself against the background of the world's religions in all their history and splendor, to emphasize a point.

In a place known as the "gates of hades", Jesus would ask the question which people are still asking today - "who do people say the Son of Man is?" (Jesus often referred to Himself as the "Son of Man"). The disciples had all kinds of answers regarding who people said He was. The general tendency in all these answers was to *underestimate Jesus - to give Him a measure of respect and honor, but to fall far short of honoring Him for who He really is*

Here's the reality, though - *Jesus is not an option among many. He's the answer for all.* The problem is, the moment we put Jesus at the same level as other people or other things, we completely *miss* Jesus.

With Jesus, *there is no comparison.* He stands alone! Jesus is King and there is no contest. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Everything was made by Him and for Him. He is the visible image of the invisible God. *He has no equal.*

Read Matthew 16:13-14

What makes Jesus unique among all those who have ever lived?

### LIVING IT OUT

Jesus is not an option among many. He's the answer for all. And after we have chased everything, pursued what we can and attained it all, we come to realize He is what every soul is longing for. Here are key aspects of who Jesus is:

**Jesus Is The Messiah, The Anointed One** - in the midst of a pagan center, Jesus reveals the most important truth - He is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one to save man from his sin. In a seat of false gods, Jesus reveals His nature and purpose - He reveals the true God to them.

Read Matthew 16:15-18

Why do we need a messiah, a savior ?

**Jesus Is Our Comfort And Strength** - our comfort and our hope rest in Jesus and the work He did on the cross for us. Our strength comes from *Him*.

Read Hebrews 4:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Can you share a time you relied on Jesus for comfort and strength and He lifted you?

**Jesus Is The King Of Kings And Lord Of Lords** - many people in the world hold Jesus in high regard - from a distance. They are *attracted* to Him, but not *devoted*. Jesus asks us to surrender our lives, our will to Him. He asks to be our *Lord*.

Read Hebrews 1:1-3, 1 Timothy 6:14-16

Who is Jesus to you - are you *devoted* to Jesus, or simply *attracted* to Him?