

Knowing Jesus: Who do you say he is?

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²² He came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to him, and begged him to touch him. ²³ He took hold of the blind man by the hand, and brought him out of the village. When he had spat on his eyes, and laid his hands on him, he asked him if he saw anything.

²⁴ He looked up, and said, "I see men; for I see them like trees walking."

²⁵ Then again, he laid his hands on his eyes. He looked intently, and was restored, and saw everyone clearly.

²⁶ He sent him away to his house, saying, "Don't enter into the village, nor tell anyone in the village."

²⁷ Jesus went out, with his disciples, into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?"

²⁸ They told him, "John the Baptizer, and others say Elijah, but others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." (Mark 8:22-29)

Knowing Jesus means answering a question: who do you say Jesus is?

In many studies about Jesus, the most important question gets lost. Reading the Gospels easily focuses on what is happening or why it is happening. Too often we know the details, even minutiae, and never get around to the most important question. Who do YOU say Jesus is? Is Jesus God? Has God come among us?

Do not miss the Bible context of the verses above. Jesus has just healed a blind man with a "second touch." The man then saw clearly. What should we learn? Knowing Jesus requires that we want to know him, that we want his repeated touch in our lives. Knowing Jesus requires a personal encounter with Jesus. Knowing Jesus means that we never be satisfied where we are. Knowing Jesus requires intensity, looking carefully.

Another time, Jesus spoke about those without eyes to see or ears to hear. Everything written about Jesus had to be fulfilled. Some saw clearly. Others rejected Him. Today, some who see only see dimly. Today, some who should see clearly are distracted and turn their eyes away. Some see shadows and forms—out of focus, without clarity—and are satisfied.

With the Greeks of John 12, we also say, "We want to see Jesus!" I invite you to join me on a continuing journey toward knowing Jesus! Keep the question in mind: who is Jesus? The options have been variously described. Is he lunatic, liar, or Lord? What does the evidence say?