

Who is this Man?

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Luke 9:1-27

1. Jesus the Enabler (vv. 1-6)

¹And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ²and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. ³And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. ⁴And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. ⁵And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." ⁶And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Who is this man to The Disciples?

- They have left everything to follow Jesus.
- Jesus sends them out with nothing (no money, no extra clothes, no food).
- He enables them with power and authority (he doesn't send them out ill-prepared).
- They preach the gospel and heal.
- They are prepared for rejection.
- They are being prepared for future ministry.

2. Jesus the Enigma (vv.7-9)

⁷Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, ⁸by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. ⁹Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

Who is this man to royalty and the nation?

- He knew it wasn't John.
- He heard that some thought it was Elijah.
- Others told him it could be a prophet.
- He wants to see for himself to decide.
- Everyone knows *about* Jesus but few actually know Jesus for who He is.

3. Jesus the Bread of Life (vv. 10-17)

¹⁰On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. ¹²Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." ¹³But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵And they did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Facts:

- The only miracle that is recorded in all four gospels (thus making it very important to us).
- This miracle marks the height of popularity in the earthly ministry of Jesus. From this point forward, his popularity diminishes.

Who is this man to the crowds?

- He is someone that speaks with authority, he heals their sick, he feeds their physical hunger and he speaks to their spiritual needs.
- They still don't understand why He came or who He really is.

Who is this man to the disciples?

- Although they have returned from a successful preaching and healing campaign, their hearts are hard and they gain nothing from this miracle.
- They would rather send the crowds away than meet their needs.
- Jesus produces extra food so that each disciple is left with one full basket of bread and fish.
- Although not mentioned in this gospel, Jesus assures them He is always with them, especially in their greatest hour of need.

4. Jesus the Christ (Messiah / Anointed One) vv.18-20

¹⁸ 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?” ¹⁹ And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” ²⁰ Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

Who is Jesus to the crowd?

-They see Him as someone who is very special, but not as the Messiah.
-They want an earthly king that will feed them and heal them...not spiritually save them.

Who is Jesus to the disciples?

-Peter and the other disciples have come to recognize Jesus for who He really is – the Christ.

5. Jesus the Sacrifice (vv.21-22)

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.”

Who is Jesus to the crowds?

-To the Jewish leaders he is a law-breaker, a blasphemer and empowered by Satan. They hate him and want to destroy him, his followers and any influence he has had on Israel.

6. Jesus the Lord of *your* Life? (vv.23-27)

²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Who is this man to you?

Questions to ask ourselves:

- ⇒ What do I want most from Jesus? _____
- ⇒ The one thing I am unwilling to surrender to Jesus is _____.
- ⇒ My greatest need is _____ ?
- ⇒ If God asked you quit your job, sell your possessions and move your family to another country, would you? _____
- ⇒ I think Jesus is . . . _____

This past week...

- I spent _____ minutes in prayer.
- I spent _____ minutes watching TV.
- I spent _____ minutes reading my Bible.
- I spent _____ minutes surfing the internet.

Who is this man?

If He is truly who He said he is, the Messiah, then does your life reflect Jesus as Saviour and Lord? Is your work life different because you are a Christian? Is your home life different because you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Are your relationships different because He is the Lord of your life?

He asks you to do three things (v.23):

- 1) Surrender: Deny yourself.
- 2) Suffer: Take up your cross daily
- 3) Sacrifice: Follow Him.

He gives you three reasons to obey: (“For...” = a marker of cause or reason)

- Deceit about Life (v.24)
- Deceit of Riches (v.25)
- Deceit of Fear & Popularity (v.26)

You can sum it up in one word: “Surrender”

“The more we get what we now call ‘ourselves’ out of the way and let Him take us over, the more truly ourselves we become.” – C.S. Lewis

“The response of the disciples is an act of obedience, not a confession of faith in Jesus.”
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Oswald Chambers writes in a stern tone, “If we have never had the experience of taking our commonplace religious shoes off our commonplace religious feet, and getting rid of all the undue familiarity with which we approach God, it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence. The people who are flippant and familiar are those who have never yet been introduced to Jesus Christ.”