

But Who Do You Say that I Am?

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 9:18-20



Big Idea

“But who do you say that I am?” Everyone must come to answer this question for him/her self. An evaluation of the facts makes it plain: He is not a Legend, nor a mere Luminary, nor a Liar, nor a Lunatic. He is the Lord of all! Is this your confession as well?

Option #1: Legend

“Some writers may toy with the fancy of a ‘Christ-myth,’ but they do not do so on the ground of historical evidence. The historicity of Christ is as axiomatic for an unbiased historian as the historicity of Julius Caesar. It is not historians who propagate the ‘Christ-myth’ theories” (F.F. Bruce).

1. **Fundamental Improbabilities**
2. **Early Composition**
3. **Counterproductive Content**

Option #2: Luminary

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to” (C.S. Lewis).

Option #3: Liar

“[The character of Jesus] has not only been the highest pattern of virtue, but the strongest incentive to its practice, and has exerted so deep an influence, that it may be truly said, that the simple record of three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and to soften mankind, than all the disquisitions of philosophers and than all the exhortations of moralists” (William Lecky).

Option #4: Lunatic

Option #5: Lord

“[I]f you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom 10:9).

Reflection Questions



- Are faith and reason opposed to one another? How does the Bible seem to relate the two?
- Before coming to Christ, how would you have answered the question: “But who do you say that I am?” What changed your mind?
- When you try to share Christ with others, what are some common objections that you hear? In what ways might the content of this sermon help?
- If Jesus is the Lord, is He *your* Lord? What aspects of your life need to be brought back under the Lordship of Jesus? Where have you been straying from His love and commands?