

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Who Do You Say That I Am? Understanding Jesus' Identity and Mission

Speaker: Pastor Keith Jenkins

Date: November 3, 2024

Introduction:

In this powerful sermon launching the Christmas season, Pastor Keith Jenkins focused on the central importance of Jesus' identity and mission. He emphasized how our understanding of who Jesus is shapes everything about our faith and lives.

1. The Cornerstone of Our Faith:

Pastor Keith emphasized Jesus' foundational role as the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your understanding of Jesus as the cornerstone developed over time?
2. What happens when we try to build our lives on foundations other than Christ?

Supporting Verse:

Ephesians 2:19-20 - "So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was explaining the unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.
- Theological Significance: Jesus serves as the essential foundation that aligns and stabilizes our faith.

- Application: We should examine whether Jesus truly serves as the cornerstone of our lives.

2. Understanding Jesus' True Identity:

Pastor Keith discussed the historical and ongoing confusion about Jesus' identity.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your perception of Jesus' identity evolved throughout your faith journey?
2. What cultural misunderstandings about Jesus do you encounter most often?

Supporting Verses:

John 1:1,14 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: John was establishing Jesus' divine nature against early heresies.
- Theological Significance: These verses affirm Jesus' full deity and humanity.
- Application: We should embrace the full biblical understanding of Jesus' identity.

3. Two Responses to Jesus:

Pastor Keith contrasted the responses of the Rich Young Ruler and Zacchaeus to Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What similarities and differences do you see in these two encounters with Jesus?
2. Which response more closely reflects your own relationship with Jesus?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 19:8-10 - "Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor... Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house.'"

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: These encounters showed different responses to Jesus' call for discipleship.
- Theological Significance: True encounters with Jesus lead to transformation and surrender.
- Application: We should examine our own response to Jesus' call on our lives.

Conclusion:

Pastor Keith Jenkins' message reminded us that our understanding of and response to Jesus' identity shapes everything about our faith and lives. We must move beyond cultural opinions and traditions to have a personal encounter with Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Reflection Questions:

1. How would you personally answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"
2. What areas of your life need to come into alignment with your profession of Jesus as Lord?
3. How can you help others understand Jesus' true identity during this Christmas season?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing Jesus as our cornerstone and Savior. Help us to understand Him more fully and respond to Him more faithfully. May we, like Zacchaeus, demonstrate our faith through transformed lives. Give us courage to share the truth about Jesus with others this Christmas season. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"Who Do You Say That I Am? Understanding Jesus' Identity and Mission," East Hill Church, 11/03/2024. Delivered by Pastor Keith Jenkins.

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Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.