

2021 Fall Spiritual Renewal

Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Church Lives

Week 3

Son of God, Son of Man

Sometime in the 1960s and '70s a new kind of thinking arose and specific language came with it. People started "trying to find themselves." People would begin a personal quest to discover who they were. Young men would drop out of school so they could figure themselves out. Middle-aged folks, especially men, would go through a midlife crisis, as they struggled with their identity and purpose. Unfortunately, many times this midlife crisis would bring with it divorce and/or a desire to retain one's youth.

Certainly in days of Jesus' ministry, most people didn't have the luxury of "finding themselves." But they did enjoy coming up with theories about who Jesus was ... his true identity. The only one who was crystal clear about the answer to this question was Jesus himself. While people guessed, suggested, and made innuendos, Jesus waited for the right moment to declare publically what he had known before time itself began.

Jesus always knew his identity and mission. At the right time, he made it clear, so that we would have the right answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?"

Talk About It

Who is Jesus? Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCf6Qy3j3Y4> to see New Yorkers answer this question. If this question was asked in our downtown, would the answers be the same or similar? Why?

Discussion

Read Mark 8:27-33. Why do you think Peter responded to Jesus the way he did?

Jesus' response to Peter was very strong! What had Peter done wrong and how was Jesus' response an act of love?

Jesus said that those who followed him daily would: 1) deny self; 2) take up a cross; 3) follow Jesus; and 4) willingly lay down their life for Jesus and for the gospel. What does this look like in an ordinary day in your life as you seek to do these things?

Read Matthew 17:5. When Jesus was transfigured the Father declared who Jesus is and what we are called to do in response. In what ways can we live out this calling on a daily basis?

Those who are kings (or other leader-types) are often exalted and received with special honor. Jesus was very different. What contrasts do you see between how Jesus lived and how leaders (then and now) live and behave?

Jesus called himself the “light of the world,” and assured his disciples that they would no longer walk in darkness but in his light if they followed him. How have you discovered the light of Christ as you have grown as a believer in Jesus and how does his presence keep you from living in darkness?

Read John 8:58-59. What is Jesus’ claim and why did it upset the religious leaders enough to want to kill him?

Read John 11. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha were Jesus’ good friends. Why did Jesus allow Lazarus to die? What was the response of both Martha and Mary? What does Jesus claim about Himself and why does it matter?

Jesus is Lord. He is Savior, Messiah, and the Lamb of God. He came to fulfill the promises of the Father to His people which involved a sinless life, death on a cross in our place, and rising again in glory to give us victory over sin, death, and the devil. How does the truth of His identity make an impact on who you are as a child of God and what you are called to do in that vocation?

Reflection

Jesus came into this world to be our substitute. We are saved from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Why is this important and how do you reflect and rejoice in this truth every day?