

You just have to like the internet – it makes research so easy. . . Since Jesus asked the question of his disciples – “who do you say that I am”, I simply asked Google: “Who is Jesus?” And of course, got a variety of answers. . .

Not surprisingly, Jesus is savior . com
says: Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.

All about Jesus Christ . org
says: Jesus is 100% man and 100% God.

Who is Jesus . com
says a bit more extensively: Jesus is God almighty, the image of the invisible God, who came to save us from our sins. He is the Son of God who is both creator and descendant of David.

Widening my search just a bit, Judaism on Line says: Judaism generally views Jesus as one of a number of Jewish Messiah claimants who have appeared throughout history. Since mainstream Jewish belief is that the messiah has not yet come and the Messianic Age is not yet present, the rejection of Jesus as either Messiah or deity in Judaism has never been a central issue for Jews.

Islam-guide. com says:
Muslims respect and revere Jesus as a great prophet. They consider him one of the greatest of God’s messengers to humankind. That Jesus was born miraculously by the command of God and he performed many miracles. They do not, however, acknowledge him as God.

So you get the point – we can learn a lot ABOUT Jesus even on the internet. But knowing ABOUT Jesus, and knowing Jesus are two different things.

Knowing ABOUT Jesus is a matter of the mind and the intellect: it’s neat, and definitive, and can bit a bit sterile.

But knowing Jesus – is a matter of the heart and soul – which means it’s a bit more messy--- because it involves a relationship. . . and relationships are ongoing, and never quite definitive.

Pope Emeritus Benedict – had this to say many years ago when he was a cardinal:
“Being a Christian, having faith in Jesus Christ – is not the result of ethical choices or lofty ideals – but about our encounter with a person. We are bound to the truth: and the truth is a person. And it is our relationship with the person of Jesus Christ – which gives our life as a Christian---- a new horizon and decisive direction.”

>>That’s worth hearing again<<

So until we can answer that question of Jesus – in our hearts, not just in our minds – “who do YOU say that I am?” --- then I think we’re just going through the motions. . . we might strive to keep the rules and regulations to cover our bases to get to heaven – but our hearts won’t be in it. And remember, Jesus doesn’t just want to get us to heaven – but he wants to get a little piece of heaven in each one of us. . . here and now – so that we can use our God-given gifts and talents to make the kingdom of God more present in our midst.

Who do you say that I am??? Asks Jesus. . . And I don’t think that is a question we answer just once and then go on with life, knowing that we have a proper answer. . .

But much like when you tell another person on the day of your wedding – you love them enough to be true to them in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health – for all the days of your life. . . is not something done once and then let’s get on with life --- it is something that needs to be lived every day. And because you make the choice to love that person – and not abandon them, or to start loving

someone else with the same intensity --- it determines everything you do throughout the day --and throughout your life.

That's the relationship – that's the “my heart is in this” commitment that Jesus wants from each and every one of us.

Spiritual author Max Lacado has this to say:

Jesus turns to his disciples and asks them the question. THE question: “But who do you say that I am?”

He doesn't ask, “What do you think about what I've done.” He asks, “Who do you say that I am?”

He doesn't ask, “What do your friends think? . . . who do your parents think? . . . Who do your peers think? He poses instead a starkly personal query, “Who do *you* say that I am?”. . .

Now you have been asked some important questions in your life:

Will you marry me?

Would you be interested in a transfer?

What would you think if I told you I was pregnant?

You've been asked some important questions. But the grandest of them is an anthill compared to the Everest found in the eight chapter of St. Mark – for to be properly answered, it requires a total heart transplant. . . *Who do you say that I am?*

[The Inspirational Study Bible]