

THE FATHER REVEALS THE SON

Matthew 16:15-17 ... "He [Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the son of the Living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.'"

In Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, neighbors all knew him as the son of Joseph and Mary. Today we know that Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, but the people of Nazareth were unaware of that. Joseph fulfilled the role of Jesus' father (like a step-dad) and everyone assumed he was the natural product of Joseph's and Mary's marriage, not the supernatural intervention of God.

When Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was, Peter replied: "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus then told him that a birth certificate or paternity test was not how Peter came to that conclusion. Instead, it was God the Father who informed Peter that Jesus was the Christ. In verse 20, Jesus commands his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Our responsibility as God's servants is to introduce the unsaved to Jesus. We do not have to defend Jesus, or his heritage (as the Son of God). We simply ask the unsaved, "Do you know Jesus?" and then tell them what Jesus means to us and the joy we have in serving him. It is the Holy Spirit of God who convinces people that Jesus is the Son of God. The Holy Spirit is much more capable of truthfully and accurately representing the Lordship of Christ to people, than we are. We are sinful, so some people might find our claim that Christ is Lord, suspicious. However, the Holy Spirit is pure and sovereign and his truth cannot be doubted.

As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth, search your heart. Ask yourself, "How do I know that Jesus is Lord, the Son of God?" If your belief is only grounded on what others have told you, or what you heard in church, then your faith may be fragile and incomplete. If your faith is the result of a deep and personal relationship with Christ, then you know who he is better than anyone else can tell you. So, ask yourself today, "Do I know Jesus?" If you are not sure, then the answer is "no," you do not. Ask God to reveal the truth to you today and then come to a solid knowledge of the Lordship of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

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