

Becoming Like Jesus

Luke 9:18-26

How would you describe what it means to be a Christian?

¹⁸Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” ¹⁹They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.” ²⁰But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” (Luke 9:18 – 20)

Jesus asks – We all have to answer: “Who is Jesus?”

The question “Who is Jesus?” created conversations at all levels of culture. Luke 5:21, 7:20, 7:49, 8:25, 9:9, 9:18, 9:20, 19:3; Acts 8:34, 9:3-5; Matthew 21:10

¹²Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.” ¹³He replied, “You give them something to eat.” They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” ¹⁴(About five thousand men were there.) (Luke 9:12-14)

The disciples do not truly know who Jesus is.

²¹Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²²And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” (Luke 9:21-22)

Jesus explains – there is always more to Jesus.

- Jesus has to redefine who he is for his followers.
- My understanding of Jesus helps me become more like Jesus.
- We must understand what it means for Christ to be Lord.

You don't have to understand everything about Jesus to follow him.

⁴²"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

²³"Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" (Luke 9:23)

Jesus calls – It costs everything to follow Jesus

"When Christ calls, he bids, come and die." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

²⁴Jesus says, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. (Luke 9:24)

The economic costs of following Jesus

²⁵"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" (Luke 9:25)

The social costs of following Jesus

²⁶If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:26)

It's worth the cost

Response . . .

How does my understanding of Jesus affect how I am becoming like Jesus?

How do the costs of following Jesus affect how I am becoming like Jesus?

How do I become more like Jesus?