

## **All the Talk**

### **Ready:**

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he asked them, ‘who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” – Matthew 16:13-16

### **Set**

One of the hardest aspects of growing up as a coach’s kid was overhearing criticisms of how your dad did their job. Frequently, if the fans were upset enough, their verbal attacks became personal.

My whole life, I grew up knowing what everyone else thought of my father, the good and the bad, but I had to learn to hold strong to the truth. My mother was the one who helped me navigate through the opinions of the world and settle firmly on the truth. Even in falsehoods, I could stand firm in what I knew was true.

In the same way, the world will have many opinions of who Jesus is. In scripture, we see that even when Jesus was on earth, there were many different thoughts about who He was. While these comparisons to other great men were not bad, they diminished Jesus’ power and authority as the Messiah.

Today, people might say, “Oh, Jesus is just a good guy” or “He was a prophet.” These comments do the same thing and take away the glory and honor that the Messiah deserves. Others will say that Jesus wasn’t real and is a fake and a liar. Those are easier to call out as lies because we know the truth of who God is. However, we must be careful not to believe the half-truths about Jesus’ identity. Yes, Jesus is good, but He is so much more.

We are called to stand firm in the truth about who Jesus is and be bold like Simon Peter was. When asked who Jesus is, Simon Peter did not falter but proudly stated that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. We are called to cut through the world’s noise and boldly proclaim who our Savior is.

### **Go**

- What would you say if someone asked you who Jesus was?
- What half-truths have you heard concerning God?

### **Workout**

1 Timothy 2:5

Acts 4:11-12

### **Overtime**

“Lord, in a world where everyone has an opinion, give us the discernment of knowing who You are. Give us the courage to stand firm in that truth and spread the truth to all who will hear. Dispel the half-truths that often confuse and distract from Your true glory. Amen.”



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