

The Gospel of Mark

Inadequate Answers to the Most Important Question

Mark 8:27-28

1. _____
The issue of Jesus' identity has been set forth in the introduction to Mark's gospel (Mk. 1:1) but the individuals in the narrative have not learned that clearly yet (cf. Mk. 6:2, 51). One of the most popular opinions of Jesus is that He is some sort of an important prophet from God (cf. Mk. 6:14-15; Mt. 14:5). Jesus is initially compared to John the Baptist likely because of how recent and significant his ministry was (cf. Lk. 9:7-8). Elijah was known for amazing displays of God's power (cf. 1 Ki. 17:16) and He is prophesied to precede the coming of the Messiah (Mal. 4:5-6). Jeremiah was a prophet who preached against the wicked religious leaders of his day (Jer. 23:25-31), who preached repentance (Jer. 18:5-11), and who some expected to return preceding the final days.

2. _____
Christological heresies have been a problem since the earliest days of the church (cf. 1 Jn. 4:2), and the confusion about who Jesus is extends into our day as well. The ancient heresies of the church are alive and well today, and many of the proponents are often seen as fellow Christians by the larger professing Christian world. Even more concerning is just how prevalent are the misunderstandings and mischaracterizations of Jesus in the narrower evangelical Christian community.