

**Where Do You Get Your Identity?**  
**Discovering who you are**  
**8/27/2017 Sunday AM**

**Scripture: John 14:8-11 and Matthew 16:13-20**

**Introduction**

- Last week we spoke about Do You Want to be Rich or Poor? Relying on God for Daily Bread.
- We discussed how we should rely on God daily for our needs and not seek the extremes.
- We should be content in God's provisions for our life because He always provides more than we deserve.
- This morning we are going to discuss Where Do You Get Your Identity? Discovering who you are.
- Many people in our world today are having an "identity crisis" and they are trying to "discover themselves."
- Some people seem to spend a lifetime trying to understand who they are, only to not find an answer.
- They do not find a suitable answer because they were looking in all of the wrong places.
- In order to understand who you are, you must first find the source of your identity.

**John 14:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup>Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

- The disciples were at the Last Supper and Jesus was explaining to them that He was going away.
- Philip asks Jesus in v. 8 to "show us the Father..."
- Jesus' response in v. 9 is hard hitting, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- It appeared that Philip did not know who Jesus was, even after he had walked with Him for years.
- The disciples could not understand the things that Jesus was saying because they really still did not fully understand who He was.
- Their lack of understanding is confusing in light of the conversation that they had with Jesus earlier.

**Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

- Jesus had this conversation with His disciples way before the Last Supper.
- Jesus asked all of the disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
- The "Son of Man" implied the Messiah that was promised.
- After they responded Jesus then makes a bold assertion and asks in v. 15, "Who do you say I am?"
- He was claiming here by asking this question that He in fact was the Messiah.
- Peter responded by saying he believed Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- The disciples all knew from this conversation "who" Jesus was because of what v. 20 says.

- As a Christian, it is very important for you to understand who Jesus is.
- The disciples knew who Jesus was, but they did not understand who He was.
- This is why they were so confused with the events that unfolded in Jesus' last days on earth.
- Because of their lack of understanding as to who Jesus was, they also had an identity crisis themselves.
- **In order to discover who you are, you must understand who He is.**
- In the world today, we are looking in all of the wrong place trying to find ourselves and discover ourselves.
- College students study abroad and take time off from school to discover themselves.
- People read books and listen to secular speakers trying to understand who they really are.
- When all our eyes are set on this world as the source of our identity, we will always come up short.
- In **Psalm 23** you get the idea that you are a sheep when you read the Psalm, why is that?
- Because the first words of the Psalm identify who the Lord is, "The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want..."
- We cannot possibly discover who we are, unless we understand who God is. He is the source of our identity.
- I know that I am His son, because He tells me He is my Father.
- Who do you say He is?
  1. King
  2. Savior
  3. Lord
  4. Master
  5. Protector
  6. Provider
  7. Comforter
  8. Creator
  9. Friend...
- If you are struggling this morning trying to understand who you are and what your place in this world is, please spend some time understanding who God is.
- The more that you understand about God, the more you will understand about yourself.
- He is our Creator and Sustainer, all of who we are comes from Him.
- Once you understand who you are in Christ, you will be able to walk in victory far greater than you ever have before.
- We seek to be successful and important in this world, but when we understand that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we realize we are royalty in His eternal kingdom!
- **We are children of THE King and it is time that we start acting like it.**

## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

The Agents of the Apocalypse

"The Exile"

Revelation 1:1-8