



Guess Who

WK 66 Mt. 16:13-21

WARM UP: *When it comes to books, can you judge a book by its cover? If you can't judge a book by its cover, what about people?*

Unassuming. Without pretense. Genuine. Doesn't put on airs. All of these descriptions could fit a hundred different people that if we met outside of their normal environment, we might not pay much attention to. It happens every day, all the time. We encounter people who are exceptional, leaders in their field of expertise, but outside of where we would expect to see them, they go unnoticed. People don't recognize them for who they really are.

So, should it surprise us that when people saw Jesus, they failed to recognize him for who he truly was? As a matter of fact, the prophet Isaiah predicted as much. *"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."* Isaiah 53:1-2

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 16:13-21

1. *If we polled two good friends from your teen years, what adjectives would they use to describe you?*
2. *When Jesus asks his disciples who the people believe the "Son of Man" to be, it was a theologically loaded question. Why did people think that Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah?*
3. *When Jesus turns the question to them, why is Peter the only one to respond? Have they not yet made up their minds about Jesus' identity?*
4. *How does Jesus respond to Peter's confession? Where does Jesus say Peter got his knowledge and why the name change? What is the "rock" upon which Jesus will build His church?*
5. *How do you interpret the insight, power, and authority given to Peter? What are the "keys of the kingdom"? What do they "bind" and "loose"?*
6. *Why does Jesus change the direction of his teaching with the disciples now?*
7. *Why does Jesus tell them not to reveal to anyone that he is the Messiah at this time?*
8. *When and how did you come to recognize Jesus as your Messiah?*