IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS | PT. 1 | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

**MATT 16:1-4**

**ACTS 1:1-11**

***Did you ever watch a superhero movie or show as a kid?***

**The superheroes of the comics always must keep their secret identity from their loved ones and friends because it could put them at risk…**

**Yet, over time, they always find out & this revelation changes their relationship.**

**BUT SUPERHEROS AREN'T REAL… AND I'M CERTAINLY NOT IN ANY WAY TRYING TO DRAW A COMPARISON TO CARTOON CHARACTERS AND OUR LORD…**

**BUT I DO WANT TO GET YOUR WHEELS TURNING A BIT.**

**TRUTH:** JESUS WAS STRATEGIC IN REVEALING WHO HE WAS, BASED ON GOD ORDAINED TIMING AND PURPOSE.

**THEY WERE EXPECTING A SAVIOR, BUT NOT ONE LIKE JESUS.**

**JESUS IS NOT TRYING TO HIDE HIMSELF FROM YOU.**

**RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY WILL ALWAYS COMPLICATE, BECAUSE RELIGION IS ABOUT DISCOVERING US (OUR WHY), INSTEAD OF DISCOVERING GOD (HIS STORY).**

**THE BIBLE IS THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT HOW GOD SO LOVED YOU, THAT HE CAME TO SAVE YOU, IN RELENTLESS PURSUIT. YOU FIND YOU WHEN YOU FIND GOD.**

**THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS.**

**OUR LIFE SHOULD BE ALL ABOUT JESUS.**

**REV 22:13**

**But Jesus, in the day and age He came, was unrecognized by the keepers of God's law.**

**TRUTH: JESUS SHOWED ASPECTS OF HIS IDENTITY.**

**JOHN 14:8-11**

**MATT 16 BEGINS WITH JESUS' FOES, BUT WILL END WITH HIS FOLLOWERS HAVING HIS IDENTITY REVEALED MORE CLEARLY:**

**MATT 16:1-12**

***3 POLITICAL GROUPS:***

1. **Scribes:** Professional expounders of the law.

   **THE PROBLEM: more interested in the *letter* of the law than the *spirit* of the law.**

2. **Pharisees:** The "separated" group.

   **THE PROBLEM: held their traditions up so high that they became legalistic, self-pious, and hypocritical.**

3. **Sadducees:** Maintained Temple rituals, while getting along with the Romans.

   **THE PROBLEM: denied the spiritual parts of faith.**

**THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT GOD, JESUS CHRIST, IS STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.**

***Who's Jesus? Claims by action.***

1. He claims that whatever God can do, He can do.

   People knew the supernatural followed the words of Jesus.

2. He claims authority over Satan.

   People watched Him command the demonic.

3. He claims He will die and come back.

   People watched Him raise people from the dead.

4. He claims He will give His followers something.

   People watched His followers minister, and miracles happened.

**Now here He asks His disciples: *Who do people say the Son of Man is?***

**MATT 16:13-20**

***"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."***

**This answer is two-fold:**

A. The Christ: Messiah, Savior, Fulfillment

B. The Son of the Living God: God Himself, Divine Glorious

**Jesus is UNDIVIDED, He is 100% God & 100% man.**

**WHERE DOES THIS CONVERSATION TAKE PLACE??**

Caesarea Philippi

A place overcome of idolatry and false god worship, mankind trying to find religion.

**MATT 16:21-23**

**WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH US?**

Jesus, in His response to Peter, tells us about His true Church:

**18** And I tell you, you are Peter (Petros), and on this rock (Petra)[b] I will build my church, and the gates of hell[c] shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed[d] in heaven."

THE CHURCH OF JESUS,

People:

- -born of the Spirit
- -saved by grace
- -given the keys (but not the KING)

**"We carry the greatest message of all time. And every single hindrance towards the church is to prevent the spread of this message. BUT THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL."**