

## MARK 6:14-15      WHO CAN HE BE?

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

There was something about this Jesus. Even the puppet "king" of Galilee and Perea had heard of Jesus. What a stir he must have caused. The returned Elijah, a prophet in the line of Isaiah, perhaps even John the Baptist come back to life, these were all impressive titles. Elijah is to return for the final liberation of Israel. The prophets of old spoke God's words to purify the nation and for the restoration of Israel. John the Baptist himself claimed to be the forerunner of the promised Messiah. This was no quiet movement proceeding silently in an isolated and distant place. Obviously, Jesus was someone to be reckoned with.

As it was then, so it is now. Jesus is still a name that conjures strong emotions. Some pray-ers use it almost as a guarantee for obtaining a desired answer. In contrast, some public institutions forbid the mention of his name in public prayer. Either way, the name of Jesus garners our attention. It has the power to encourage and the power to offend. What it doesn't allow in the honest individual is the option to ignore. What Jesus did was not normal human behavior.

So, who is Jesus? What do you think? More importantly, what difference does it make in your life? If Jesus is who he is revealed to be in the Bible, then he is a power to be reckoned with. We acknowledge who he is with our lives. We deny him by active rejection or passive disregard. We only proclaim who Jesus really is by how we live our lives in obedience to his call and his will.

**Lord Jesus, you have been revealed through the witness of the Bible and the Church as the Messiah, the Son of God. As I proclaim this truth with my lips, empower and direct my will so that my life will demonstrate who you are. Amen.**