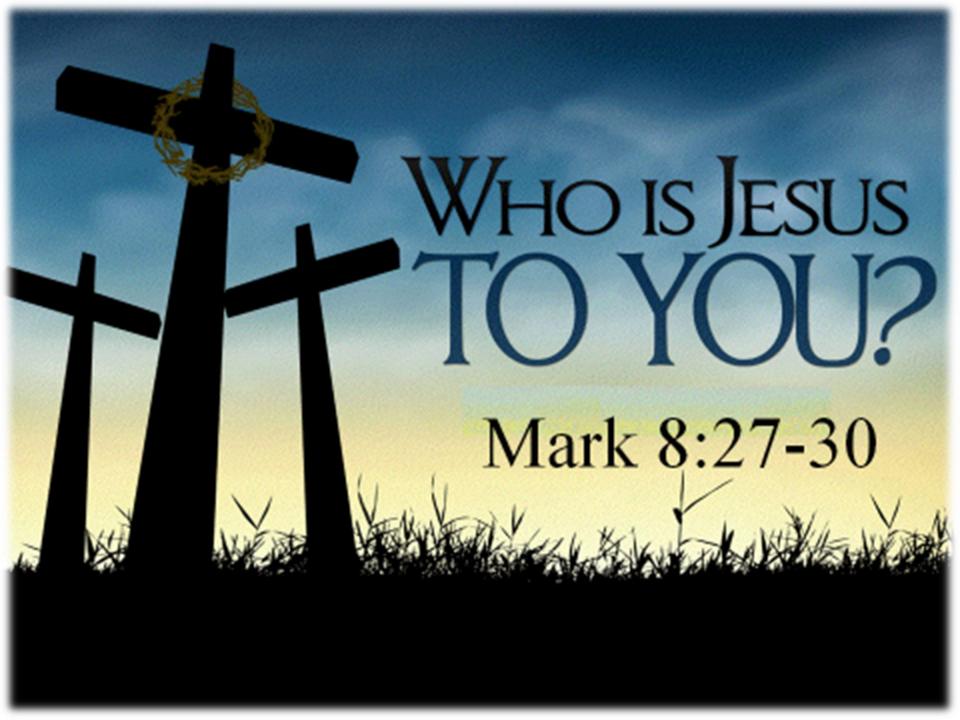
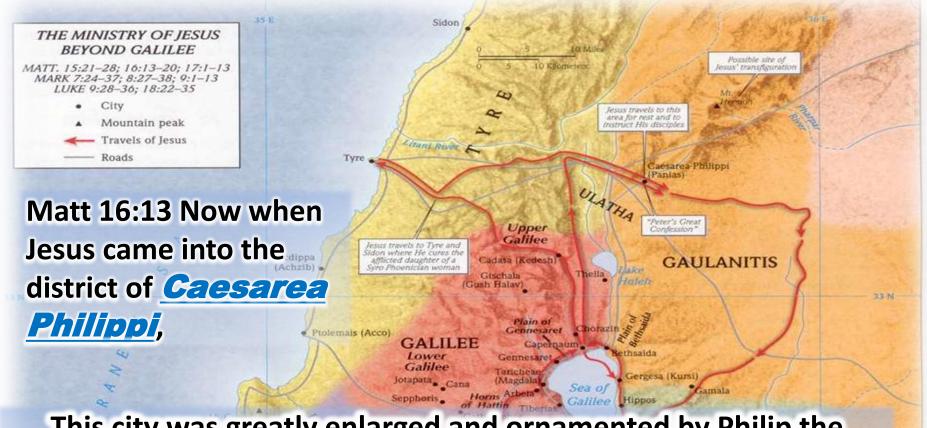
Life's Big Ouestions



Who is Jesus to you?

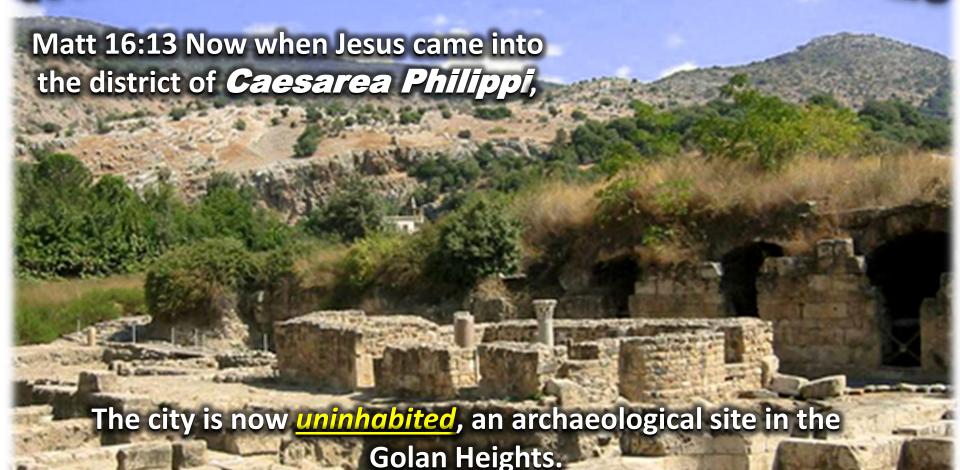
"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." - A.W. Tozer



This city was greatly enlarged and ornamented by Philip the tetrarch, son of Herod, and called Caesarea in honor of the Roman emperor, <u>Tiberius Caesar</u>.

To distinguish it from the other Caesarea the name of Philip was added to it. Barnes

Jesus and the disciples are about 120 miles from Jerusalem in northern Palestine.



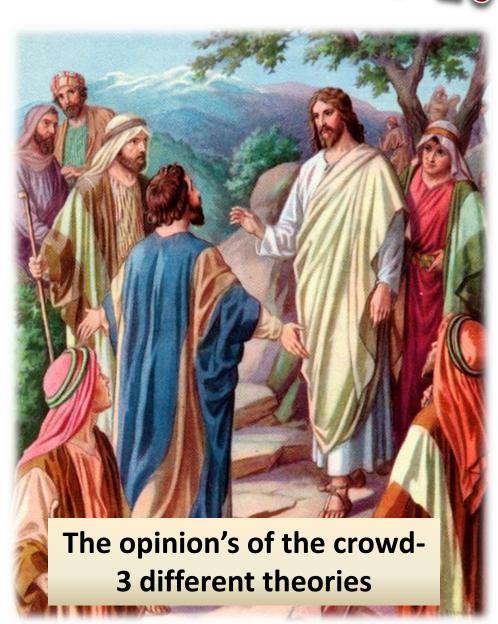
The region was strongly identified with various religions: It had been a center for Baal worship; the Greek god Pan had shrines there; and Herod the Great had built a temple there to honor Augustus Caesar

Matt 16:13 <u>He was asking His</u> <u>disciples</u>, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

We're closing in on the time of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. But before He does, there's <u>2 things</u>
He wants His disciples to be clear about:

- 1. Who He IS
- 2. What He's GOING to do

Jesus' question may only have been meant to introduce a conversation, through which he might teach. Pulpit



Matt 16:14 And they said, "Some say <u>John the Baptist</u>"

Just as Herod did, <u>risen from the</u> <u>dead</u>. (Matt 14:2)

Matt 14:1-2Herod heard the news about Jesus, 2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead,



Their reasoning: because of John's preaching of repentance.

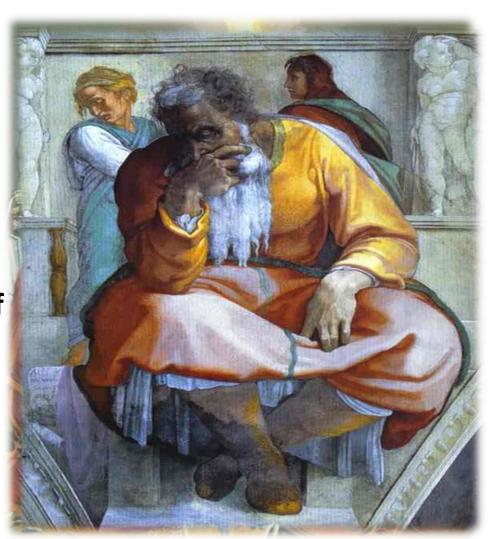
But Jesus was a far greater preacher than John, and He spoke with an authority that was astonishing. He not only spoke the Word of God, He is the Word! John *only pointed* to the Lamb of God, but Jesus PERSONIFIED the Lamb. BEC

Matt 16:14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; <u>and</u> <u>others, Elijah</u>; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

Their reasoning: It had been prophesied that Elijah would come again (Mal 4:5), and some thought that this prediction was fulfilled in Christ.

Jeremiah was the weeping prophet whose tender heart was broken at the sight of the decay of the nation. Certainly this attitude was seen in Jesus, the Man of sorrows.

Not Jeremiah? How about one of the *other prophets*?



Matt 16:15 He said to them,
"But who do you say that
am?"

Their answer will determine where they spend eternity...and your answer does the same.

Be careful as you take the test...you cannot afford to miss on this question. And you must answer not only with your head, intellectually, but with your heart, spiritually (Rom 10:9f)*

This question is repeated in every age, over and over again.

There is no gray area with this question...you cannot avoid it,

you must answer.

4 answers that are given:

"He's a legend.

It's all made up. He never really was."
But His reality is testified to by Josephus,
Tacitus, Pliny, Suetonius.

"He was a liar.

He deceived people into thinking He was someone He was not. He was a good teacher, a good person who did good things, but He was not God in the flesh." John 8:46

"He was a lunatic.

He was off in the head. Maybe sincere, but crazy...mentally deranged." John 7:46



"Or is He Lord?" Was He who He claimed to be?

4 answers that are given:

"He is CHRIST!"

Matt 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Confess Him as Lord today (Phil 2:10-11)

All of these opinions were wrong, because you just can't compare Jesus to another man. He is unique, supreme, the Name above all names, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Isa 9:6

