

# Matthew 16:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

## Analysis

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Jesus personalizes the question: 'But whom say ye that I am?' The shift from 'men' to 'ye' demands personal commitment, not merely reporting others' opinions. Salvation requires personal faith in Christ, not secondhand religion. Reformed theology emphasizes that each person must individually trust Christ—there's no salvation by proxy or tradition. This question confronts every generation: intellectual acknowledgment of Christ's existence differs radically from personal faith in His lordship and deity.

## Historical Context

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After hearing various popular opinions, Jesus requires His disciples to declare their own conviction. In first-century Judaism, messianic expectations ran high but were politically focused. Jesus' question cuts through speculation to demand personal verdict. The disciples had traveled with Jesus, seen miracles, heard teachings—now they must confess who He is.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. Can you articulate your personal faith in Christ beyond what you've been taught?
2. How has your understanding of Jesus deepened through personal encounter?
3. What difference does personally confessing Christ make versus knowing about Him?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγετε	αὐτοῖς	ὑμεῖς	δὲ	τίνα	με	λέγετε	εἶναι
He saith	unto them	ye	But	whom	that I	He saith	am
G3004	G846	G5210	G1161	G5101	G3165	G3004	G1511

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 9:20** (Parallel theme): He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

**Matthew 13:11** (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

**Mark 8:29** (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.