

Who are you? It is easy to answer that question by telling people about the things that we do. It is easy to let our jobs define us. But are we only what we do? If that is the case, too many of us are living miserable lives. Do you dread Monday and the start of new work week? Do you hate getting up in the morning and having to go to work? Do you live for the weekend, wish you had more vacation time, and can't wait for retirement? Did you dream about a different kind of work when you were younger and got stuck with a job you don't like. Maybe what you do doesn't answer the question "Who are you?"

There can be a big difference between what we do and who we really are! You may be passionate about something that has nothing to do with your job. You may volunteer for things that are important to you. You may spend a lot of time on your hobbies. You may have kids or grandkids that get a lot of your attention. You may love a sport and play it as often as you can. Or you may be just worn out from work and life to do much of anything.

There is a difference between what we do and who we are. I hope that I am not just a pastor. That's my job and I love it most of the time. But I'm more than that. I'm a husband and a father. Those relationships are very important to me. But I am also a forgiven sinner and a child of God. That is who I really am. Our relationship with Jesus should be the defining point in our lives.

That leads to the question, who is Jesus? That was a big question when Jesus traveled around Israel. Some people thought He was a prophet, a spoke person for God. Others hoped He was the Promised Savior who would liberate Israel from Roman control and make Israel great again. People who were sick hoped Jesus was the man who would heal them. The religious leaders of Israel saw Jesus as a threat, tried to silence Him and plotted to put Him to death. Some people looked to Jesus to do something for them. Others were afraid of what Jesus would do.

When Jesus asked the Disciple who they thought He was, Peter answered that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The Holy Spirit gave Peter this insight. Immediately after that Jesus predicted His death and resurrection. Jesus is the God of Justice and Love. His Justice demands that sin be punished. His Love demanded that He die in our place, that He take our punishment upon Himself. Jesus did this for us. He is the way, the truth, and the life, the only way to God the Father.

Jesus was on His final trip to Jerusalem when someone asked Him if only a few would be saved. That was the wrong question. Jesus told the man the right question was not how many people will be saved, but who will be saved.

There are many misconceptions about who will be saved today. Some people think this life is all there is. They don't seem to care about what happens when they die. Other people think people live on in the memories of others. But how long do those memories last? We've all heard people say after someone died that "They've gone to a better place." How do they know that? Is that true for everyone? What does a better place mean?

The important question for all of us is “who am I in relationship to Jesus?” Who is Jesus to me? Most of us in church today or watching online call ourselves Christians. But is being a Christian something we do, or does it define who we are? Does being a Christian mean going to church, volunteering some of our time, or donating to the church? Doing those things doesn’t make you a Christian. They are things that we do because we are a Christian.

There were a lot of people attracted to Jesus, who wanted to hear Him talk and witness His miracles. But just hanging around with Jesus is not enough either. In answer to the question about how many will be saved, Jesus warned that some will be surprised when they don’t get in. Those left outside will say, ‘**But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.**’ And he will reply, ‘**I tell you; I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.**’ (vss. 26-27) Jesus wants to have a new relationship with us. It is not a matter of how important we think we are but how reliant we are on God.

People who don’t have a relationship with Jesus come up with all kinds of excuses for why they do their own things and do not take the time to worship Him. People have told me that they’ve already learned everything they need to know about the Christian faith, so they don’t need to worship the Lord. Can we ever know everything we need to know about Jesus? Faith is not just knowing, it is also trusting, following, and worshipping Jesus.

Jesus calls us to a life of service. People have told me that they have served in the past; it is someone else’s turn. They don’t have time to help or serve now. But unless you are not able to physically help, there is no retirement from the Christian life of service.

People have told me that they came to church when their kids were home, but now that they are out of the house, worshipping the Lord is not that important. Really? A man I knew in California was raised in a Christian family but drifted away from their Jesus. He did not come to worship services, especially during NFL season because the games on Sunday mornings were more important to him than taking the time to worship the Lord..

Being a Christian means that we walk through life with Jesus. We have a new life in Christ. Our lives are transformed by our relationship with Jesus. Our sins are forgiven. Our guilt and shame are gone. The Holy Spirit is working in us to help me become more like Jesus. Because Jesus loves us, we can love others. Because Jesus forgives us, we can forgive others. Because Jesus was a servant to the people He met, we can serve others too, putting their needs ahead of our own. Being a Christian means Jesus is our friend, Lord, and Savior.

Jesus called His Disciples to follow Him, to walk with Him, to go through life with Him. He invites us to do the same thing. Being a Christian means that we take a different path through life. Jesus warned, “**The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way.**” (Matthew 7:13) If we are going along with the crowd, we may be on the wrong path.

There is a big difference between people who go their own way and those who follow Jesus. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus, “Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil.” But Jesus changes us. Paul continued, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:1-2, 10)

Robert Frost wrote a well known poem called “The Road Not Taken.” Frost wrote, “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.” Jesus said, “The gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.” (Matthew 7:14) Walking through life with Jesus is the path less traveled, but it makes all the difference.

Which path are you on? Only Jesus has the key that opens the door to God’s Kingdom. Jesus is calling us to follow Him on the path of faith and life. The path we take is key to answering the questions, “Who are we?” and “Where are we going?” Make sure you are on the right path!