

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Target Thought: We have the mind of Christ.

It's back to school time again! Some of you are probably feeling excited. Some of you may be a little sad that summer is over. You may feel nervous or a little anxious about going back to school because of all the new things that you will have. You will have new teachers, some new friends, and you have new things to learn.

In our Bible lesson today, the disciples are in school and you and I know who their teacher is? Right! Jesus is their teacher, and Jesus is always our teacher. Jesus often took his disciples aside to teach them important lessons about the Kingdom of God. This was one of those days. Jesus began his lesson that day by asking his disciples a question.

"Who do men say that I am?" Jesus asked.

I imagine that one of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say that you are John the Baptist."

Then another of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say you are Elijah."

A third disciple raised his hand and said, "Some people say that you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

"Very good," Jesus said, "that is what other people are saying, but who do you say that I am?"

You know, I think that Peter was so excited that he forgot to raise his hand. I think he just called out to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "You are right, Peter. You didn't learn that from listening to other people. It was taught to you by my Father in heaven."

We have to know who Jesus is in our life also. Let's think about this, who Jesus is to us: He is our teacher, helper, comforter, friend, healer, savior, guide inside, our shepherd.... the list is endless because Jesus is always all that we need and He will never leave us or forsake us. Knowing and living in the covenant fact that Jesus is who He is to us means that NOTHING is impossible with Jesus and that He, the Holy Spirit, the Greater One is living in us! Jesus and us make a majority!

Let's read Psalm 37:23, it tells us about God ordering or directing our steps.

Psalm 37:23 (NKJV)

²³The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

With Father God ordering our steps, giving us directions on where to go and what to do, we have nothing to fear or nothing to worry about we just have to trust and obey Him.

Knowledge is power, and when we that Jesus is always with us and He is all that we need, it strengthens us to KNOW that with Him all things are possible. Remember our target thought, we have the mind of Christ, and with Him all things are possible.

As we go back to school this year, we are going with our heart and mind full of Jesus, we know who He is to us, we know that He will never leave or forsake us and with Him we are a majority. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother and we have the greater one living inside of us. With Jesus nothing will ever be impossible and we have Him guiding and directing our life! We will be able to learn faster and easier because we have the mind of Christ and we don't have any of the world's garbage in our hearts.

The lesson that the disciples learned that day is just as important today as it was then. Many people in our world today still do not know who Jesus is. You and I need to be ready with the answer, "He is the Christ, the Son of the living God." As we live our lives for Jesus, trusting and obeying Him, others will see His love through us and that will be a witness to those around us who need Jesus, after all we all need Jesus.

Dear Father, when people are searching for the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" help us to be ready with the answer. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

1. Tell me who Jesus is to you.
2. Tell me what two things we must do so that we don't have to fear or worry.
3. Finish this statement, I have the _____, and with Him nothing is _____.

