

# Jesus the Messiah

## Sermon Summary:

- **Central Question:**  
The question "Who do you say that I am?" is posed by Jesus and is central to our faith and identity as Christians. How we answer this question has significant, radical consequences.
- **Peter's Confession:**  
Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the Messiah but misunderstands what it means. Many in Jesus' time expected a conquering king, but Jesus reveals the Messiah is a suffering servant.
- **Isaiah's Prophecy of the Suffering Servant:**  
The reading from Isaiah 50 describes the true Messiah who suffers, endures humiliation, and remains obedient to God's will despite rejection and abuse.
- **The Misuse of Jesus' Messiahship:**  
Throughout history and even today, people have twisted the idea of the Messiah for personal gain, using Jesus' name to justify violence or power, such as in the case of the Russian Orthodox Church's support of war.
- **Living According to Christ's Gospel:**  
Theologian Karl Barth emphasized that truly understanding Christ requires living by His teachings. Discipleship means more than knowing about Jesus—it requires action.
- **The Cost of Discipleship:**  
Jesus outlines the requirements of following Him: denying oneself, taking up one's cross, and following Him. This involves setting aside personal desires, enduring hardship, and faithfully walking in obedience.
- **Conclusion:**  
True discipleship demands that we live as the suffering servant did—obedient to God and willing to sacrifice our comfort and status for the sake of the gospel.

## Questions

1. **Who do you say that Jesus is?**

How does your personal understanding of Jesus shape the way you live and approach your faith?

2. **What does it mean for Jesus to be the "suffering servant"?**

How does this contrast with common expectations of a Messiah in Jesus' time and perhaps in our own time?

3. **Why do you think Peter misunderstood what it meant for Jesus to be the Messiah?**

What similar misunderstandings about Jesus might we encounter or hold today?

4. **What does "denying oneself" and "taking up one's cross" look like in today's world?**

Can you think of modern examples where this kind of discipleship is lived out?

5. **How does the idea of "obedience to God" through suffering challenge modern concepts of success and power?**

What might we need to change in our own understanding of strength and leadership?

6. **How can we discern what it truly means to "follow Jesus" in our daily lives?**

What practical steps or spiritual disciplines can help us live out our discipleship in alignment with the suffering servant's model?