

"The Son of the Living God"

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (January 26, 2014)

Introduction: As we have transitioned into the New Testament portion of ***The Story*** we have already noticed the conflict between those of God's kingdom and those of the enemy. At this point people begin to wonder, "Who is this Jesus?" Jesus hears the whispers (**Mark 8:27-31**). There is a flurry of answers. We see Peter's response. How would you respond? Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. Jesus the Legend? A Deliberate Fable?

- A. The Historical Evidence
- B. The Biblical Evidence
- C. The Physical Evidence

II. Jesus the Liar? A Deceiving Fraud?

- A. The Possible Deception
- B. The Possible Illusion
- C. The Possible Manipulation

III. Jesus the Lunatic? A Demented Fool?

- A. The Megalomaniac
- B. The Misunderstood Followers
- C. The Mentally Weak

IV. Jesus the Lord? A Divine Friend?

- A. More Than a Decent Fellow
- B. More Than a Devoted Teacher
- C. More Than a Dynamic Leader

Conclusion: Jesus did miraculous things with a wonderful heart, showing that He was a tender, compassionate person who befriended people. Peter said it correctly for all of us, "*You are the Messiah, the Son of God.*" Jesus went to the cross on a hill named after a human skull, showing what He thought of us: He loved us deeply and gave His life for us. If Jesus were merely a legend, why would people die in the millions for His cause? If Jesus were a liar, why would He die for His claim? If Jesus were a lunatic, how did He engage in intelligent debates and handle the stress of His betrayal and crucifixion with forgiveness in His heart for those antagonists? Peter knew the answer. You and I know the answer. Who is this Jesus? He is Lord! He is the Son of the Living God!