

2026-05-24 Points

Title: Who Do You Say That I Am? Living with Christ as Lord and Savior, Not Just Savior

Sermon Summary: This sermon challenges believers to move beyond viewing Jesus merely as Savior and to embrace Him as both Lord and Savior. The preacher vulnerably confesses his own struggle with walking in God's grace without surrendering to obedience, emphasizing the difference between surface-level Christianity and genuine discipleship. Drawing from Peter's confession of Christ and David's cry for guidance, the message explores the critical distinction between being led and guided by God—leading focuses on the "why" and shared goals with God, while guiding provides the "how" through Scripture and the Holy Spirit. The sermon confronts American cultural Christianity that prioritizes comfort over obedience, calling listeners to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Christ actively. It emphasizes that true love means speaking truth with grace, calling out sin while extending mercy, and that heaven is filled with "bad people" made righteous only through Christ's blood. The core challenge is to stop manufacturing our own righteousness through behavior modification and instead surrender fully to Christ's lordship, trusting His Word for direction in every area of life.

Key Points:

- The distinction between having Jesus as Savior versus having Him as both Lord and Savior
- Walking in grace without obedience is incomplete Christianity
- The difference between being "led" (focusing on people and why) and "guided" (focusing on how and where) by God
- Scripture provides the tools, directions, and support needed to stay on the right path
- Christ's command to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him requires active participation
- True biblical love means speaking truth with grace, not just acceptance without accountability
- We cannot manufacture our own fruits through behavior modification or

self-help

- The importance of intimate, vulnerable community for spiritual accountability
- Many are invited to the wedding banquet, but few are chosen because they refuse to follow the instructions
- Asking God for things in His name means seeking courage, righteousness, and holiness to expand His kingdom, not selfish desires
- The need to surrender false idols including money, success, validation, family, and comfort

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 16:13-28 (Primary focus: "Who do you say that I am?" and the call to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ)
- Psalm 31 (entire chapter on taking refuge in God, seeking His leading and guiding)
- John 13:34 (The new command to love one another as Christ loved us)
- Matthew 22:1-14 (Parable of the wedding banquet)
- John 14:8-14 (Philip asking to see the Father; Jesus explaining His unity with the Father and promising to do what we ask in His name)

Stories:

- Personal testimony of God calling him to quit his 15-year career to start something new right before his daughter was born, demonstrating scary but faithful obedience
- The example of meeting with a Tuesday night men's group where they practice intimate vulnerability and accountability, confessing struggles and seeking spiritual guidance together
- Illustration of seeing a waitress crying before taking an order and feeling prompted by God to pray with her but being afraid to seem "radical"
- Reference to a recent video clip stating "heaven is filled with bad people" made righteous only through Christ's blood
- Childhood memory of fearing his father when he had done wrong, contrasted with the reverent fear we should have for God
- The parable of the wedding banquet (Matthew 22) emphasizing that we have clear instructions on how to come to Christ, just as wedding guests know how to RSVP and dress appropriately