

WHO IS JESUS?
Mark 8:27-29
By Mark Holbrook

What do YOU think of Jesus?

A. What you think of him can make a difference.

1) One of the most popular modern biographies about Jesus was written 100 years ago by a man named Strauss. He called it the "Life of Christ". Strauss stripped away the supernatural stuff and focused exclusively on the high ethics of Jesus.

One of those influenced by the book was a young Russian who was studying to be a priest. When he finished reading Strauss's book, he felt his eyes had been opened. Jesus had no more power or authority than anyone else.

The young Russian dropped out of the church and joined the Communist Party. His ruthlessness became legendary, and he rose to become the leader of the entire Soviet Union.

His name was Joseph Stalin, and historians claim he killed more people than even Hitler, perhaps up to 20 million.

B. Perhaps we can know Jesus best through his followers.

1) Original disciples made such an impact those around them commented, "Weren't these with Jesus?"

2) I have been impressed by committed Christians.

C. Most important answer is one YOU give.

1) Popular MTV song by Joan Osborne is titled, "What if God were one of us."

It goes: "If God had a face what would it look like? And would you want to see (it) if seeing meant that you would have to believe in things like heaven and in Jesus and the saints and all the prophets?"

2) Many don't believe in Jesus because they are afraid.

a) Jesus would require them to change, and they don't want to.

b) He must be your living savior, not just historical figure.

3) Everyone must come to a decision, a conviction.