

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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IDENTITY. “*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters with us?’ And they took offense at him.*” Mark 6:3). How would you describe yourself or someone else? What makes you unique, distinguishable, and/or like someone else? It is always interesting when people *IDENTIFY* someone as the *spitting image* of another family member. While in junior high school, a friend of mine was told how she looked like her mother. She turned to me and said, “*Isn’t that interesting. You know I am adopted, and I like being thought of as looking like my mother.*” We *IDENTIFY* people by their physical attributes, habits, speech, and idiosyncrasies.

In Mark’s Gospel, Mark describes that Jesus’ hometown people *IDENTIFIED* Him as a carpenter, and Mary’s son with four brothers and at least two sisters. Even after Jesus performed some miracles among them, Jesus was *IDENTIFIED* as someone ordinary who they knew all His life. Yet, they were astounded at His teaching in the synagogue. After curing some people, Mark writes, “*And he (Jesus) was amazed at their unbelief.*” Nothing special about Jesus from the hometown crowd.

How would each one of us *IDENTIFY* Jesus? Wise. Good Teacher. Miracle worker. Savior. Christ. God’s Son. Human. Divine. Spiritual policeman. It is our encounter with Jesus that makes all the difference in the world. As Christians (“*Christ-bearers/followers*”), why are we Jesus’ disciples? There are many Creeds and Statements of Faith—testimonies of faith—that try to *IDENTIFY* who Jesus is. Remember when Jesus asked the disciples, “*Who do the people say that I am?*” And their “*poll taking*” *IDENTIFIES* Him as a great prophet coming alive in His day. But the real question is not what others have to say about Jesus but is about what each one of us has to say who He is. He is more than a reincarnation of past prophets, and it is finally when He is known as the Christ, the “*connector*” of us to God, that our lives are never the same. Who is Jesus to you? *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*