

dec 16

as christmas draws nearer and nearer, many are caught up in the busyness of the season. how easily we can let pressures mount and unimportant things moved in front of important things.

after all my stories have been told and all my beliefs have been expressed, there remains Jesus, from beginning to end. it is Him alone who fills all of time and space and beyond. beyond meaning eternity. there is no eternity without Him. there is only the great void which was in the beginning.

our Lord spoke very highly about john the baptist. "assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than john the baptist." matt 11:11 yet even john questioned whether Jesus was the awaited messiah.

what was our Lord's response to him? "go and tell john the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them." luke 7:22

He did not boldly proclaim, "yes, I Am the Christ". He simply stated the works He had performed. they testified to who He was. it was left to john to decide whether this was enough or not. that decision remains to each of us today.

there came a time when Jesus asked, "who do men say that I Am?". the response was, "some say john the

baptist, some elijah, and others jeremiah or one of the prophets." matt 16:14 the world was willing to give Him an elevated status, just not to the acknowledgement of Who He really was.

then our Lord asked, "but who do you say that I Am?" simon peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "blessed are you, simon bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." matt 16:15-17

"He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. a bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth." isa 42:2-3 no, He did not come to demand the exaltation He was due. He came to demonstrate His nature and left it to each of us to decide.

the question he once asked peter, He now asks each of us. "but who do you say that I Am?" our response is determined by whether we are listening to "flesh and blood", or to our heavenly Father. it is determined by whether we are listening to the spirit of the world or the Spirit of God.

thomas, a disciple of Jesus, said "unless i see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, i will not believe." john 20:25 then when Jesus finally appeared to him, i believe he fell to his knees in worship as he proclaimed, "my Lord and my God!" john 20:28 yet his legacy has remained to be known as

"doubting thomas".

will you be called "doubting" today? our Lord is asking again: "who do you say that I Am?" will you remain doubting or can you hear the voice of the Father saying, "this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." matt 3:17

linda