Sept. 13, 2015 **“WHO IS THIS GUY, AND WHAT IS IT TO US?”** based on Mark 8:27-38

Intro: Story of Rex Harrison and James Lovell.

Person’s identity is important, defines who we are. Jesus asked, “Who do people say that I am?”

* John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet

Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”

* Peter responded, “You are the Messiah!”
* Jesus accepts answer.
* They’re in a secular place – Caesarea Philippi – foreign territory

Where does our ‘confession’ come?

* In church, but that’s relatively easy, surrounded by fellow believers and symbols of faith
* Took courage for disciples to say it, especially in light of how Jesus described Messiahship, for which he would suffer, be rejected , be killed, and then rise again
* It was humanity at best who would bring this about – good people, respected people.

Peter rebuked Jesus for saying such a revolting thing.

* Mark Twain quote: “People bothered by Scriptures which they cannot understand, I noticed it’s the things I do understand that trouble me most.”
* Gospel becomes personal: “To deny self, take up cross, and follow me(Jesus)”
* Our challenge is to do that!

Do we put other’s needs above ours, do we reach out with our faith, do we witness our faith? That’s being a Christian!