

1-1-2011

"Who Then Is This" A Reading From the Gospel of Mark

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Recommended Citation

Magness, Lee (2011) "'Who Then Is This" A Reading From the Gospel of Mark," *Leaven*: Vol. 19: Iss. 1, Article 15.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol19/iss1/15>

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“WHO THEN IS THIS?”

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

LEE MAGNESS

Sometimes the best answers in the Christian scriptures come from considering their questions—in this case, questions to Jesus and questions from Jesus. This collection of scriptural questions and responses to them explores the great questions of the Gospel of Mark and the insights that come from those questions. The text can be read by a single reader or by multiple readers as designated.

1 *What is this?*
 2 The townspeople asked, answering their own question.
 1 *A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits,*
 and they obey him.
 2 They had heard his teaching and sensed his authority.
 They had seen his miracles and sensed his authority.
 1 *What is this?*
 2 They asked.
 The question contained its own answer.
 1 *A new teaching with authority!*

1 *Why does this man speak like that?*
 2 The scribes asked, obvious, oblivious in their opposition.
 1 *He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?*
 2 They had heard his teaching, his words about forgiveness.
 They had seen his miracles, his acts of forgiveness.
 1 *Why does this man speak like that?*
 2 They asked.
 The question contained its own answer.
 1 *Who can forgive sins but God alone!*

1 *Who then is this?*
 2 The disciples asked, the dripping, drained, dread-ful disciples.
 1 *Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?*
 2 They had faced the tempest, the terrifying power of the storm.
 They had faced the Teacher, his terrifying power over the storm.
 1 *Who then is this?*
 2 They asked.
 The question contained its own answer.
 1 *Even wind and sea obey him!*

- 1 *Where did this man get these things?*
- 2 His A-prophet-is-not-without-honor-except-in-his-own-hometown asked.
- 1 *What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?*
- 2 They knew him, and familiarity bred comfort.
They knew him, and familiarity bred contempt.
- 1 *Where did this man get these things?*
- 2 They asked.
The question contained its own answer.
- 1 *Wisdom given to him! Such mighty works!*

- 1 *Who do people say that I am?*
- 2 Jesus asked his questioning disciples.
- 1 *Who do you say that I am?*
- 2 They had followed, but they would falter.
They had faith, but they would fail him.
- 1 *Who do you say that I am?*
- 2 He asked.
The answer contained its own question.
- 1 *You are the Messiah.*

- 1 *Why do you call me good?*
- 2 Jesus asked the man whom Jesus loved.
- 1 *No one is good except God alone.*
- 2 The man with many possessions wanted to inherit life—
The man with many possessions, possessed by his possessions.
- 1 *Why do you call me good?*
- 2 He asked.
The question contained its own answer.
- 1 *No one is good except God alone.*

- 1 *Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?*
- 2 The high priest asked, not satisfied by the silence.
- 1 *Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?*
- 2 This blasphemous man that he was looking at now
Was the blessed one he had been looking for all along.
- 1 *What more witnesses do we still need?*
- 2 He asked.
The question contained its own answer.
- 1 *What more witnesses do we need?*

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