

- Challenge: **How I perceive Jesus matters!**

*“What comes into our minds when we think about Christ is the most important thing about us.” A.W. Tozer:*

- It's **my responsibility** to have an **accurate picture of Jesus**.

***My concept of Jesus can be influenced by...***

1. ...my **culture**.

*“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”* **Matthew 16:13 (NIV)**

2. ...my **heritage**.

*They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”* **Matthew 16:14 (NIV)**

- There's the Jesus of **tradition**, and the Jesus of **the Gospels**.

3. ...my **God**.

*Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven...”* **Matthew 16:17 (NIV)**

*Then Jesus answered him, “Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are you, Simon Bar-Jonah. For flesh and blood [men] have not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven...”*

**Matthew 16:17 (AMP)**

*At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. <sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”* **Matthew 11:25-27 (NIV)**

***Why should I develop a better idea of Jesus?***

1. Because my idea of Jesus **determines what I believe**.

*“...And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it...”*

**Matthew 16:18 (NIV)**

***These words I speak to you*** are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

**Matthew 7:24-25 (MSG)**

2. Because my idea of Jesus **affects the condition of the church**.

*“...And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it...”*

**Matthew 16:18 (NIV)**

3. Because my idea of Jesus **shapes how I live in God's kingdom**.

*“...I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* **Matthew 16:19 (NIV)**

- When I see Jesus **clearly**, I will recognize my **purpose**.

*We proclaim to you what **we** have **seen** and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.* **1 John 1:3 (NIV)**

*We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

**2 Corinthians 4:10 (NIV)**

*Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words (the message) of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> And we have learned to believe and trust, and we have come to know [surely] that You are the Holy One of God, the Christ (the Anointed One), the Son of the living God.”* **John 6:68-69 (AMP)**