***Who is Jesus (and what difference does it make)?***

Matthew 16:13-20

**The Poll: Who is Jesus?**

* Popular Opinions

**Malachi 4:5 (NIV)**   
See, I will send you *the prophet Elijah* before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

* Personal Conviction

**Matthew 17:5 (NIV)**   
While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

**The Prize: What’s at Stake?**

*If Jesus is who He claims to be…*

1. I am blessed!

**Ephesians 1:3 (NIV)**   
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has *blessed us* in the heavenly realms with *every spiritual blessing* in Christ.

1. I am more than I am, in spite of myself!

*The only omnicompetent Executive chose Simon Peter--a man of great strengths and glaring weaknesses--to lead his fledgling church*. – Kenneth Quick

**Romans 8:17 (NIV)**   
Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1. I belong!

**1 Peter 2:4-6 (NIV)**   
4  As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- 5  you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6  For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1. I have purpose!

**John 20:23 (NIV)**   
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

*Who needs to know they can be forgiven? Have I told him/her?*

1. I am unbeatable!

*Death will not kill me!*

**John 11:25-26 (NIV)**   
25  Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26  and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"