



finder

Jesus said,
"I am the
way..."

A publication of *Bailiesmills* Reformed Presbyterian Church

Autumn 2015

Who Do You Say I Am?

Asking the question each one of us will have to answer.

A timely question

We have probably never met before. If we do ever meet, our first questions will be of the "getting-to-know-you" sort.

Only much later might one of us dare to ask, "What do you make of me?"

So it was with Jesus of Nazareth. He allowed a group of men privileged access to him. They watched, listened and talked with him for the better part of three years.

Only when his final journey to Jerusalem was about to commence did he ask them, "Who do you say I am?"

What about you? Were you raised with a knowledge of the Bible? Are you equipped to answer Jesus' question?

Inadequate answers

Many inadequate answers are given by people. All of them fall short in much the same way – they say that Jesus of Nazareth was only a man.

Belfast-born scholar C.S. Lewis exposes their muddled thinking like this:

"Let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You

must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

A perceptive reply

So what did Jesus' disciples reply? They replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

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This is no shallow, thoughtless answer. These men had observed Jesus night and day – when he was relaxed, when he was exhausted, and when he was under pressure.

Their answer was deeply informed by their personal experience of Jesus. And it was perceptive.

What about you? Do you want to give an informed reply?

Asking for light

Sure, dismissing Jesus is cheap and easy. Anyone can do it.

But what if you really are interested in his question, "Who do you say I am?" What if you want to be able to make a perceptive and potentially life-changing answer. There are things you can do.

"Father... you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children."

You can start to search for the answer with humility. Jesus said that God the Father hides the knowledge of God the Son from those who are proud of their abilities, but he makes Jesus known to people who are humble.

Then pursue your search with desire. The person who really, really wants to know keeps on asking, keeps on seeking, and keeps on knocking. That's the only sort of seeker who finds.

And pay attention to the Bible. Jesus often said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." In

fact, it's humility and desire that will drive you to the Bible to find Jesus there.

One last thing: you must be prepared to change. Jesus said, "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether [my] teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority" (John 7:17). Are

you willing to follow where the evidence leads?

Living knowledge

Does it matter? It matters more than you could imagine. Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

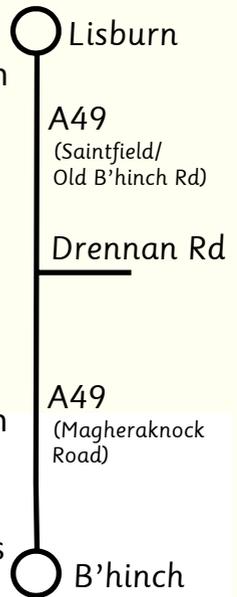
"You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you" (Jeremiah 29:13-14).

Bailiesmills is a Bible-based, confessional and evangelical congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland (also known as "the Covenanters").

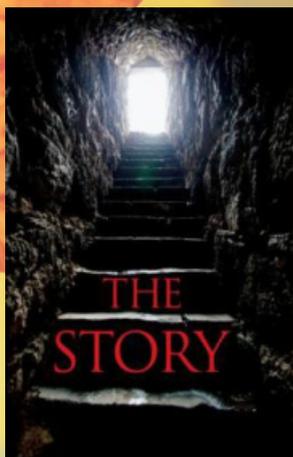
We meet for worship at 11.30 AM each Lord's Day and at 7 PM on the first and third Sunday of the month. The church building is at 15 Drennan Road, BT27 6UT.

Drennan Road is on the A49, 4.0 miles from Lisburn, and 4.7 miles from Ballynahinch.

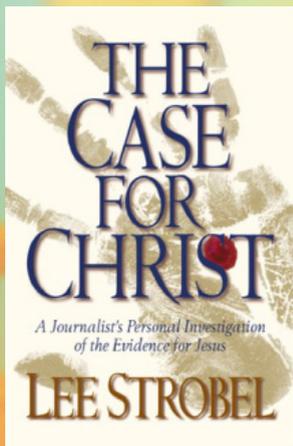
From Anahilt, take the Glebe Road. After 1.2 miles turn right onto the Ballykeel Road. After 0.3 miles turn left onto the Bailiesmills Road. At the end of the Bailiesmills Road turn left onto the A49. After 0.5 miles turn right onto the Drennan Road.



This edition of **ROUTE**finder comes to you with the offer of two free books to help you answer Jesus' question "Who do you say I am?"



A first-class historian interviews the key eyewitnesses and records their testimony concerning the man who turned the world upside down. His writings make up two Books of the Bible – Luke and Acts. By reading them together we get drawn into the epic story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and then into the world of his early followers as Christianity spreads across the globe.



Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, former Chicago Tribune legal editor Lee Strobel cross-examines a dozen experts with tough, point-blank questions in search of credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was positively the Son of God. This riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure reads like a captivating, fast-paced novel, yet it's anything but fiction!

To obtain a free copy of either of these books, phone John on (028) 9263 9684, or contact him through the Bailiesmills website:

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