

Past? Present? Future?
[Jeremiah 33:14-18](#); [Mark 8:27-29](#)

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Let's say we're at a wedding. Two people are getting married. Doesn't matter who, exactly. Just any two people.

We all know the happy couple has a past. They didn't just now meet each other standing in front of the pastor. Maybe they've known each other a few months, maybe they've known each other since kindergarten. Doesn't matter. The fact is, the couple has a past together.

But interestingly enough, the focus of the wedding is not on the past. You'd think it would be. It's what they have in common. But the focus is not on the past.

The focus of a wedding is on the future. It's about the life they will live together. The past may come up a few times, some jokes about how they met, but the focus of the wedding will be on the future. The past is a nice place to visit, but you can't live there.

My question for us this morning is, where is our focus with Jesus? Where is the focus of our relationship with Jesus? Are we all about Jesus' past: birth, life, teachings? Are we focusing on the present, on our day-to-day relationship? Is our focus on the future? Do we have a vision of the future life Jesus wants us to live? Do we have a vision for making the Kingdom of God as real on earth as it is in heaven? In our relationship with Jesus, where is our focus: past, present, future?

Jesus and the gang are walking down the road. Jesus asks them, "Who do people say I am?" The ones who don't really know Jesus think he's someone from the past. They have no other frame of reference for him than as someone who has gone before: John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets.

But Peter knows better. Peter has walked with Jesus and eaten with Jesus. Peter has heard Jesus' teachings and seen his miracles.

Peter knows who Jesus is. "You are the Messiah." The Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one. You are the **new** ruler. The

one who is going to do the **new** thing. Jesus is going to do the new thing of ruling with justice and righteousness.

When Peter thinks of Jesus he doesn't think of the past. He thinks of the future. He thinks of what Jesus is going to do because Jesus is not about the past. Jesus is about the future. He is the one who **will** do justice. He is the one who **will** do righteousness. Jesus is the one talking to us about the Kingdom of God and what it **will** be.

In just a minute we're going to celebrate communion. Doing so, we remember communion is not just about the past. It's not just about the Israelite's escape from slavery or Jesus' last supper.

Communion also nourishes us, it empowers us, to go **into** the **future**. Communion is the spiritual food we need to do the **future** ministry of making the Kingdom of God as real on earth as it is in heaven.

Who is Jesus to us? Who do we say Jesus is? When someone asks us who Jesus is, when we think of Jesus, how do we describe him? Is our relationship with Jesus all about the past? His birth, life, death? Is our relationship with Jesus concentrated on the present? The one who is walking with us day-by-day? Are we looking towards the future? The ministry we **will** do? How we are going to make the Kingdom of God as real on earth as it is in heaven?

For us, for you and me, for us as individuals and us as a church, who is Jesus? Is Jesus our past? Is Jesus our present? Is Jesus our future? Amen.