

MISTAKEN FOR...

On Sunday evening we decided to play tennis, and when I started walking toward the courts, I could hear a man's voice singing. Usually at the tennis court I will hear grunts, screams, and a few profanities coming from people, but this was the first time I heard singing. When I got closer to the court, I discovered the voice was coming from a music player that some people were listening to while they played. Just as I discovered this, I was met by a woman walking her dog along the path in the opposite direction to me. She too had heard the male voice singing and she thought I was the one with the wonderful singing voice.

I have never been mistaken before for having a good singing voice. This is the reason why I am never asked to sing in a choir or asked to do a solo at church. In fact, I turn my microphone down during hymns, so nobody has to hear me sing. Instead of bringing up these examples, I pointed to Nadine (who was behind me laughing) and told her my wife can confirm I do not have a good singing voice. I then shared with her where the music was coming from before we each continued down the path. Sunday night was definitely a first for me in being mistaken for having a good singing voice.

Sometimes I have been mistaken for having certain traits that I do not, and other times people have mistaken me for being somebody I am not. I imagine each one of us have had similar experiences. After Sunday night's incident I was reminded of a time when people were mistaken in these ways about Jesus.

One day Jesus wanted His disciples to share with Him who people thought He was. The disciples responded by saying, some thought He was John the Baptist, some said He was Elijah, and still others felt He was one of the other prophets. Seeing that all of these people were mistaken when it came to His true identity, Jesus then asked His disciples, "**But who do you say I am?**" Peter was the first to reply and say, "**You are the Messiah.**"

Even though Peter got Jesus' identity right, something this disciple was mistaken about was the kind of Messiah He came to be. Peter, like so many others, mistook Jesus to be a Messiah who would save the Jewish people from their Roman oppressors as opposed to saving them from punishment for their sins through His death on the cross. This is just one example in the Bible when people were mistaken as to Jesus' true identity, and their expectations of what He came to do.

Being mistaken about these things explains why when Jesus was arrested and died on the cross so many people were confused and disappointed at first in Him. These feelings and reactions still happen with people today when they are mistaken about certain things about Jesus. For example, some people are mistaken:

- thinking Jesus should be answering prayer requests according to their will and timing, and not according to His,
- thinking Jesus should make their life trouble free, and that no trials should ever occur in their lives,
- thinking Jesus should be the one following them, as opposed to following in His footsteps.

These are just some of the ways people can be mistaken when it comes to Jesus. In order to avoid the disappointment that often occurs when people discover their expectations of Him are mistaken, I think we can learn something from my experience at the tennis courts on Sunday night. The reason why this woman mistook me for being the one singing that night was because her head was looking down at the ground while she walked. If she had been looking at me as I approached, she would have seen I was not singing and as a result not have mistaken me in this way. If we look up and **keep our gaze on Jesus as we walk along life's paths each day, we will be able to see more clearly who He is, what He does, and what He promises.** If we have any questions as we do this, we can also follow in this woman's example on Sunday night by asking Jesus for clarity like she did with me. By getting our expectations about Jesus right, we will come away with so much more joy as a result of our relationship with Him.

After being honest with this woman on Sunday night that she was mistaken thinking that I had this great singing voice she was hearing, we each went on our way along the path. Personally, I am glad she did not stay and watch me play tennis. If she had, she would not have been mistaken that I am out of shape at the moment.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean