

1. Imagine there is a large vacant block near your home. It has been sold to the local Hindu Society who plans to use it for the building of a large temple. Would you object?

**Read Mark 8:27-38**

2. The sermon implies that Caesarea Philippi was an area deliberately chosen by Christ because of its religious associations. Which of the following is closest to your feelings about the development of non-Christian religions in Australia?
  - (a) Treat them as demonic and seek to rescue adherents of other faiths and convert them to Christianity.
  - (b) Respect other faiths and understand the cultural background and see the other faiths as incomplete and seek to point them to the sufficiency and finality of Christ.
  - (c) See other faiths as valid revelations of God but Christianity being the final revelation.
  - (d) Recognise the legitimacy of all faiths, Christianity being one of them.
3. **See Verse 27-29.**  
Why do you think Jesus asked this question?
4.
  - (a) Is “Messiah” an adequate title for Jesus?
  - (b) What is the background for this term? If you don’t know, ask your leader or see cheat sheet!
  - (c) Which title for Jesus appeals most to you? Son of Man? Lord? Son of God? Messiah? Rabbi? Why?
5.
  - (a) What is the Old Testament background for “Son of Man”?
  - (b) Can you see a pattern in the way that Jesus uses the title? (See Mark 8: 37-38, 9:12, 10:33, 45)
6. **Read verse 33.** Is Peter treated too harshly here? What was there still for Peter to learn? Why do you think Jesus was so direct?
7. How would you react if you were spoken to in this way? How do you cope with confrontation?
8.
  - a. Think of Peter - How would his feelings have altered during the course of this conversation? Would there have been a permanent impact on his life?
  - b. Can you think of a moment in your life that was a “turn around” event for you?
9. **Meditate on verses 34-38.**
  - a. What changes might occur in your life if you took these words even more seriously?
  - b. How should this make a difference to Christian service, giving, attendance and involvement in church life?
  - c. How does this study inspire you to pray?