



The gospel according to

# MARK

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A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks, with a semi-transparent orange rectangular overlay covering the center. The text "Who is Jesus to you?" is written in white serif font across the middle of the overlay.

Who is Jesus to you?





## *Historical Background of Mark's Gospel:*

- John Mark wrote his Gospel as he listened and translated the eye-witness testimony of Peter concerning Jesus.
- The church in Rome was being persecuted by Nero, the Roman Emperor.
- The church was introduced to martyrdom.





The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God.

Mark 1v1





Mark is making the claim that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world – who inaugurates a new Kingdom – in which God is the sovereign ruler.





# *Messiah*

This was not just *a king*, but *THE KING* over the whole world.





*Mark's purpose in writing this Gospel is three-fold:*

1

To show *who* Jesus is. To portray the *real* Jesus.

2

To show *how* Jesus is the Messiah.

3

To show what *true discipleship to Jesus* looks like in this life.





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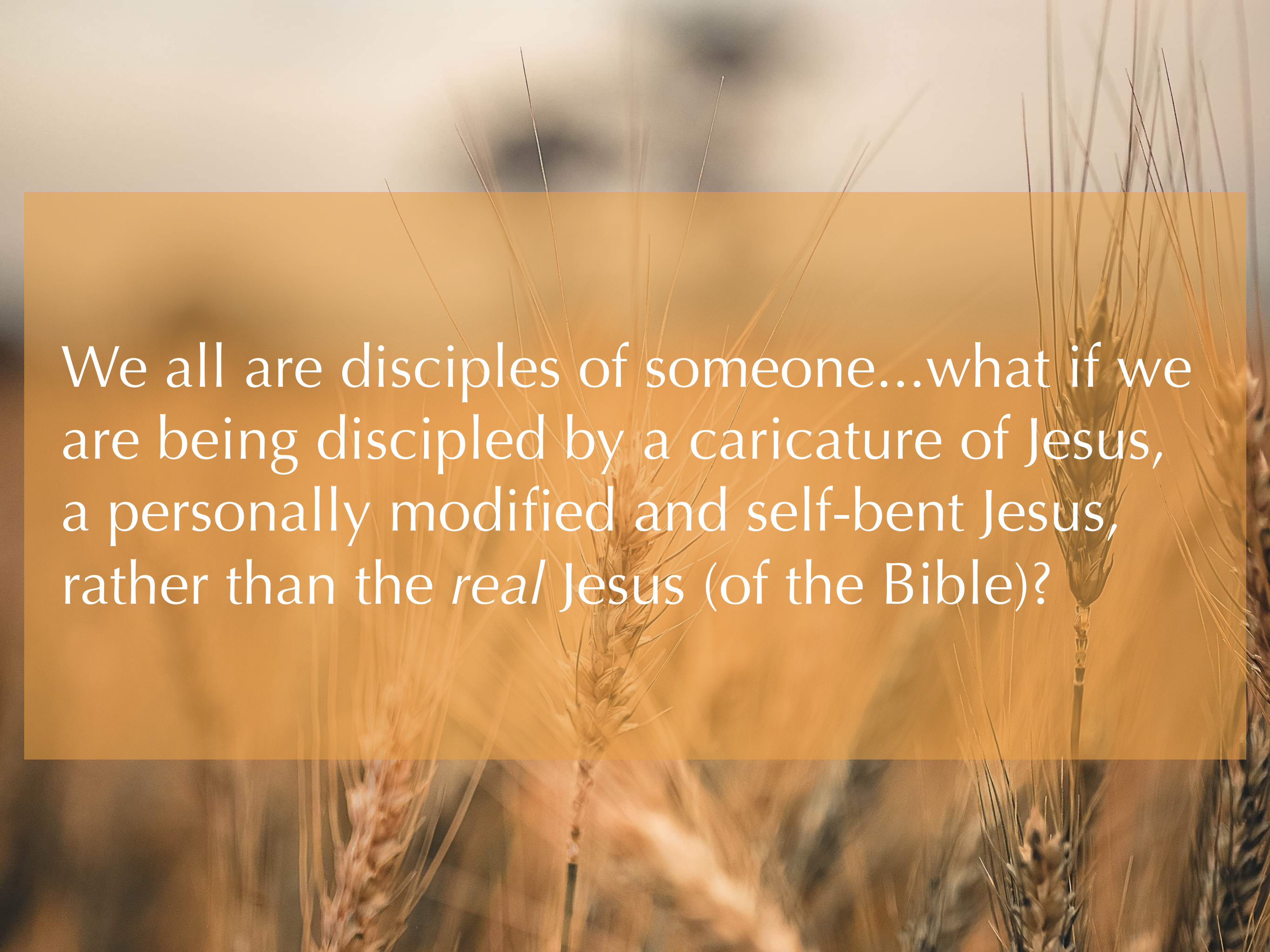
We are all disciples of something or someone.





Humans excel at creating a caricature of Jesus that best suits our existential needs or personal desires.





We all are disciples of someone...what if we are being disciplined by a caricature of Jesus, a personally modified and self-bent Jesus, rather than the *real* Jesus (of the Bible)?





*Who is Jesus to you?*

Person 1 - What Jesus?

Jesus has no real-life implications for me. He doesn't come to mind nor should he in making decisions or navigating circumstances in this life. Life is mine to live, to do what I want. That is really freedom anyway.





## *Who is Jesus to you?*

### Person 2 - Someday Jesus

Since Jesus will be Lord one day, he has little practical implications for this life other than my eternal security (heaven or hell). Maybe in moments of intense suffering I might pray, but I'm not even sure he cares or is there for me. I'm free to do mostly what I want, since Jesus isn't paying much attention to us down here anyway.





*Who is Jesus to you?*

Person 3 - Teacher Jesus

Jesus can help me make good, moral and ethical choices in this life. His way helps me do good things so that one day I might be good enough to avoid hell (if there is one). Usually, if I follow his teachings things go well for me, but sometimes they don't. Morality gives me good feelings/emotions with some potential eternal ramifications.





*Who is Jesus to you?*

Person 4 - Messiah Jesus

The reality of Jesus as King means that everything in my life comes under his rule and reign. My identity, life, time, money, calendar, sexuality, hobbies, relationships, and desires should be transformed by him. Jesus is changing everything about me. The way of Jesus is the way of total surrender to his love. His love for me changes everything, right here, right now.



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*Who is Jesus to you?*





Is Jesus to you, the *Messiah*, the one who is transforming all things, or are you discipling yourself to a caricature of Jesus or something else entirely?



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