

ME Encouraging U – Bulletin Insert #6

by Rev. Ron Mohr
(5/17/16)

*I*n the Gospel Lesson for Trinity Sunday (John 8:48-59), the Jews asked Jesus, “Who do you make yourself out to be?” after He had testified to His divinity.

“*J*ust who do you think you are?” “Do you think you’re better than the rest of us?” Have you ever heard these statements or wondered if that is what people were thinking after you spoke about your Christian faith.

*L*ook at Jesus’ response. He pointed the people to His Father and His Father’s work of glorifying Him. Even His very last words in this setting, “I Am”, pointed both to Yahweh, His Father, and to His own divinity as the second person of the Trinity.

*I*n the lesson from Acts (2:22-36), Peter and the other believers were being mocked as drunkards. But Peter, too, points away from himself and keeps the focus on Jesus, the Lord (Adonai, Yahweh, God) and Christ (Messiah, Anointed Priest and King, Promised Saviour, God Incarnate) and also on the work of God the Father:

- v22b: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested to you by God
- v22c: mighty works, and wonders, and signs that God did through Him in your midst
- v23: Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God
- v24: God raised Him up
- v36: God has made Him both Lord and Christ

*W*e would all do well to keep this “outreach strategy” in mind. When those we bear witness to praise our evangelism skills or our missionary zeal... When those we bear witness to mock and ridicule our faith in Jesus as foolishness... keep the focus on Jesus. Point people to the cross and the empty tomb. Use the phrases of the Creed to bear witness to the work of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Invite people to the Father’s House to worship Jesus, to hear His Word with you.

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