

## ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

---

May 28, 2025 – Jesus, Our Magnificent Obsession – Erlinda Cruz

### ***“Who Do You Say That I Am?”***

I’m not talking just about preachers; I’m talking about everybody in this room. Let’s look at it—verse 13, Matthew 16:13...picture them around the campfire one night after a busy day, and Jesus asked the disciples.

He says, “who do they say I Am?”

Jesus knows He has to talk about the Church, and He knows He is laying the foundation for a victorious Church that moves in power. What He is saying is dynamically connected to the church walking in victory and moving in power.

He said, “Here is My question.” Verse 13. “Who do they say that I am?” Verse 14. Again, I picture the twelve around the fire. One of them speaks up and says, “They think you are John the Baptist,” because John the Baptist had just been killed by Herod. And Jesus (I am making up the conversation) says, “Well, why do they think that I am John the Baptist?” “Well, they see You as a holiness preacher who is deeply dedicated to God and You speak the truth in such a fearless way. You are fearless like John was.”

And Jesus could say, “Well, you know I am a holiness preacher. I am very dedicated to God and I am fearless in what I say.”

One of the other guys interrupts and says, “No, the people I talked to, they don’t think you are a holiness preacher, they think You are Elijah, a supernatural prophet that confronts the powers of darkness aggressively,” like Elijah took on the demonic priesthood in Israel. In 1 Kings 18 on Mt. Carmel, all the priests of Baal met him in one big showdown; he called fire down from heaven, confronted them, and killed them all. I mean it was amazing. “When they look at You they see a supernatural prophet with power over nature. You calm the storms. You raise the dead. You are Elijah-like. You confront demons. You cast demons out everywhere You go. You are very much like Elijah, not like John the Baptist.”

Jesus said, “Yes, I do confront demons. I do move in power, you’re right, but I am more than that.”

One guy interrupts and says, “Well, the people I talk to think You are Jeremiah. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet, the prophet of compassion. They saw how you dealt so tenderly with the woman caught in adultery in John 8.” Here is a group of hostile, religious men ready to condemn this woman and break her.

## ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

---

**May 28, 2025 – Jesus, Our Magnificent Obsession – Erlinda Cruz**

Jesus intervenes, turns the whole thing around, rescues her and then connects her to God and gives her confidence in the grace of God with such tenderness.

There are so many dimensions of what He did in that scene in John 8 that had so much tenderness.

(To be continued.)

*Prayer:*

*Father we cry a deep cry to know who Your Son Jesus really is.*

*Like Peter who had this revelation of who Jesus is,*

*we want to align in the understanding of the church that Jesus is building.*

*Give us a revelation of Jesus's vision on how He will see His church be.*