

8/23/20

AT SOME POINT, JESUS HAD TO ASK THE QUESTION AS TO WHO PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS.

HE HAD TO KNOW IF HE WAS GETTING HIS MESSAGE ACROSS.

IT WAS EASY FOR THE DISCIPLES TO TELL HIM WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT.

BUT THE QUESTION HAS TO BE A PERSONAL ONE.

NOT ABOUT OTHERS, BUT ABOUT OURSELVES.

IF THE DISCIPLES HAD BEEN ON A MODERN DAY RETREAT,

THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE QUESTION,

GIVEN TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT PRIVATELY,

THEN SHARED IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE IN THE GROUP AND FINALLY,

SHARED THE RESPONSES IN A LARGER SETTING.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE.

BUT CHRIST ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT HIS MINISTRY.

HE WANTED A QUICK HONEST ANSWER AND PETER WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SEEMED TO  
HAVE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

IT'S A QUESTION THAT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE LIGHTLY.

AS A CHURCH, IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE TRUE,

THAT WOULD WE SAY AND WHAT WE DO,

BEGINS WITH CHRIST AND OUR BELIEF IN HIM.

IN THAT PASSAGE, PETER BECAME AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH.

TODAY, WE HAVE THE SAME OBLIGATIONS.

HOWEVER WE SPEAK, WE REPRESENT THE CHURCH,

BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF IT.

HOW WE TREAT OTHERS, BY OUR WORDS AND OUR ACTIONS,

REFLECTS TO THEM WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PART OF A CHURCH THAT CLAIMS CHRIST AS THE  
LIVING SON OF GOD.

WE HOLD THE TREASURE OF OUR FAITH EVERY DAY.

WE CAN BE THE BEST OF WITNESSES OR WE CAN BE THE WORST.

JESUS DID NOT ASK THEM TO REFLECT ON WHO HE WAS.

AND THERE COME TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE ARE FORCED TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT  
CANNOT WAIT FOR THE ANSWERS.

DECISIONS THAT AFFECT OUR LIVES AND DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

DECISIONS ABOUT RELIGION, ABOUT FAITH ARE OFTEN LEFT TO ONLY THOSE TIMES WHEN

WE FACE DIFFICULT TIMES OR TIMES THAT REMIND US OF OUR MORTALITY.

BUT WE HAVE TO BE READY WHEN CHRIST,

PERHAPS IN THE FORM OF THE PERSON IN FRONT OF US,

OR THE PERSON WE ARE TALKING TO, OR THE PERSON THAT SEEKS US OUT,

TURNS TO US AND ASKS US TO RESPOND ACCORDING TO WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT HIM.

PERHAPS WE THINK OF GOD, ONLY AT CERTAIN TIMES.

PERHAPS IT'S A WEDDING, THE BIRTH OF A CHILD OR THE SICKNESS OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO US  
IN OUR LIVES.

MAYBE IT'S ONLY ON SUNDAY, WHEN THE MUSIC AND THE WORDS WE USE IN WORSHIP  
FORCE THE ISSUE.

BUT THERE ARE TIMES, AND MANY, MANY MORE OPPURTUNITIES OR RATHER, CHALLENGES,  
THAT COME ACROSS OUR TABLE EACH DAY.

WE NEVER KNOW WHEN CHRIST IS GOING TO TURN AROUND, LOOK AT US,

AND SEE WHAT WE ARE DOING AND CHALLENGE US TO ANSWER THE QUESTION,

“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

OUR ACTIONS SHOULD BE PART OF THE ANWER TO THE QUESTION.

OUR WORDS, CARRY WITH THEM A VERY SPECIAL POWER,

TO ANSWER WHO WE BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE.

EACH OF US, IS A SMALL PART OF THE CHURCH.

BUT EACH OF US HAS THE POWER TO BUILD IT UP OR TO TEAR IT DOWN.

“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?” IS NOT JUST A QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION.

IT'S A QUESTION FOR WHAT WE ARE FEELING, THINKING, SAYING AND DOING EACH MOMENT

OF EVERYDAY.