

Who is Jesus?

21st Week of Ordinary Time – Matthew 16: 13-20

If a random stranger asked you...Who is Jesus? What would you say? What if a friend, relative or co-worker asked? Jesus himself poses that question, first to the disciples and then, to Peter, and most importantly, to us in this week's gospel.

Jesus says first to the disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, other Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one the prophets." This question remains 2000 years later....Who is Jesus? There are many answers to that question floating in the current culture. Some might say that Jesus is a really, really nice guy. Others might say that Jesus is a super human or a super CEO who was able to inspire and motivate people. Some would believe Jesus was just a teacher or an itinerant preacher who connected with the poor.

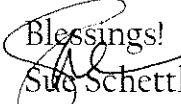
The really important question is the one Jesus poses to Peter. "But who do you say that I am." So how would you answer Jesus if He asked you? Because this week... He is asking you. He is asking all of us to make a proclamation of faith. And Peter does just that. Peter proclaims:

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

What does that mean for us today? In the Catholic tradition that means that Jesus is God. Jesus is the totality of God's love for the human race expressed fully in the person of Jesus Christ and poured forth on to each of us through the working of the Holy Spirit. So is this what you believe? Not everyone does.

Peter's profound proclamation of faith is the foundation of the Church. "And so I say to you, you Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." We in turn, then, are called to proclaim that Truth in our time and in our circumstances. We are called to be witnesses to the faith in Christ Jesus our Savior.

So how would you answer the question: Who is Jesus? Do you believe that Jesus is truly God who has come to set each of us free? This is what we proclaim each week in the Creed. This is what is proclaimed at our baptism. This is what we proclaim each week as we receive the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ. The challenge is to intentionally and purposefully share that with those we encounter each day.

Blessings!

Sue Schettler