

Chaplain's Corner

September 30, 2026

Hello All,

It has been a while, but alas I have something to share with you all!



The Gospel reading (Lk 9:18-22) from last Friday had in it a passage that I wish to reflect on. It was the time when Jesus questioned the disciples about what the crowds thought of him. After they give the crowd's response, Our Lord proceeds to ask the disciples for their own thoughts on who He is. This passage is from Luke's Gospel, so we hear St. Peter say, "You are the Christ of God."

This is always a lovely passage to read, but one thought that came up recently is whether it is significant that our Lord asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" And I think absolutely.

What we gather from the crowd's opinion of Jesus being John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the ancient prophets is that these are responses that are far from His dignity. There is certainly something greater than these figures here! Common opinion is lacking. St. John Chrysostom believes that by the question seeking the disciples' own response, our Lord is challenging them to give Him a greater answer. He does not expect them to give the same answers as the commoners. And they really should not, because these are men that have been in company with our Lord. These are men that have been called to be His apostles. They have seen Him do many powerful things and have even in His name done mighty works themselves. And truly, St. Peter's response is different from the crowd's. "The Christ of God."

I love this encounter because it points to the significance of closeness with our Lord. Such an act brings forth an understanding for the disciples that they just can't get anywhere else. Our Lord's second question to them means too that he expects a different response from them.

I propose that when the same question is asked of us, Our good Lord expects a different answer from the rest of the crowd. As Catholics we have this great privilege of being ever so close to our Lord at Mass, at Eucharistic adoration, and in our different devotions and acts of service. The challenge from the scriptural passage is that such encounters with our Lord should absolutely transform us. Going to Mass regularly should help us see Jesus in a different and more profound light. Sitting and kneeling with our Lord in adoration should enlighten us on His kingship, friendship and love of us. Constant prayer and devotion should be a path to growth in love of our Lord. Acts of service should help us see our Lord in whomever we encounter.

Life in the sacraments, which I once heard defined as a continuation of Christ's incarnation on earth, should guide us to give the same answer as St. Peter. One who partakes in the Sacraments of Initiation, goes to Mass regularly, frequents confession, is sacramentally married, and is faithful to the teachings of the Church would have a different response to one who is lackluster in the practice of the faith, and honestly, it cannot be that the lackluster one be the spokesperson on the identity of Jesus. While we cannot speak perfectly of God, we are not to speak of Him in ways that are far from His dignity. The reading challenges us to appreciate our moments with Jesus, and to ask that we grow in knowledge and love of Him every time we encounter Him. Even more deeply, it challenges us to always be in our Lord's company.

So, in the examination of your own life, what is your response to this question from Jesus to you: "Who do you say that I am?"

God bless,
Fr Chinonso