

Who Do You Say That I Am?

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus and his disciples are in the region of Caesarea Philippi. This is a place surrounded by pagan worship, political power and competing claims of authority. It is here that Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about him. They respond with various answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

But Jesus then makes the question more personal: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answers, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Peter's answer marks a turning point in Jesus' ministry. From this point, Jesus begins to teach his disciples about his coming suffering, death and resurrection. He knew that before they could understand where he was going, they first needed to understand who he was.

And the same question comes to us today: Who do you say that Jesus is?

Scripture tells us that salvation is found in Jesus alone and that those who confess Jesus as Lord and believe in his resurrection will be saved. When it comes down to it, Jesus is what makes Christians Christian. The Church exists because of Jesus and is built upon him. Christianity is not simply about attending church, knowing Bible stories or participating in Christian activities. It is about knowing Jesus, following him, trusting him and recognising him as Lord.

Our faith cannot simply be inherited from our families or sustained by habit. Each of us must answer Jesus' question for ourselves.

So, may our answer be more than words we know. May it be the conviction of our hearts and the foundation of our lives that:

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, our Saviour and our Lord.