



Daily Reflections

February 22, 2020

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
Simon Peter said in reply,
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Many people had said many things about the identity of Jesus, but Peter got it right. What he didn't get right was what the title “Christ” would mean. Peter had lodged in his mind the popular understanding of what the Messiah was to be: a kingly type, a great general, a great prophet...they were expecting a glorious, victorious, good time Messiah. But a suffering Messiah? That was repulsive, it just did not compute. The apostles would have to learn over time just what kind of Messiah Jesus would be and that would only happen on Calvary.

Food for your Journey

A student came to me and asked me to explain to her the difference between Christianity and Judaism. She is in love with a student who is Jewish. They are both law students, thinking about marriage. How will they deal with the difficult differences?

I told her that I had known people who marry lawyers and go on to have happy marriages, despite the difficulties!

Just kidding. The differences that trouble her are between two related but disparate faiths. Well, we discussed rituals, festivals, beliefs. Then she asked a fundamental question.

“When it comes down to it, what is the one thing that makes Christians, Christian?”

The answer is not pot luck-dinners, WWJD bracelets or pushy preachers. The thing that makes us who we are is who Jesus is. Jesus Christ is Christianity.

—William Willimon, “Who do you say that I am?” August 22, 1999, Duke Chapel W

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are my Lord and the Christ. Help me to wake up to the truth that to call You my Lord means that I am Your servant. Please give me the Grace I need to be a good and faithful servant who puts You and Your way above all else. Amen