February 22, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-19
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.

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**Our Scripture Reflection:**

Jesus' question was important for the disciples back then and it is so important for us today. How so? What we call Jesus, the "title" we use for Him, says something about what we believe about Him and what we think about ourselves. For instance, we often call Him Lord, for so He is. To call Him Lord means that we believe He is our leader. But it also says that we are committing ourselves to be His servants, to allow Him to have authority over the way we live. Do we?? Do we truly act as though He is our Lord? If not, then maybe we need to re-consider what we call Him. Words, titles, have powerful meanings and consequences.

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**Food for your Journey:**

Names for Jesus, assembled by Alice Camille in U.S. Catholic (August 2002):

Saint Thomas Aquinas called Jesus the perfect mediator between God and humanity.

Protestant theologian Horace Bushnell named Jesus the “poor man’s philosopher, the first and only one that has appeared.”

Fidel Castro said Jesus is “a great revolutionary.”

George Bernard Shaw called him “a first-rate political economist.”

Johnny Cash said he was “the foundation of my life and my strength.”

Author and storyteller John Shea describes Jesus as “God’s challenge and invitation.”

For Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Our Lord Jesus Christ ... is our hero, a hero all the world wants.”

So, who is Jesus Christ?

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**A Prayer from the Heart:**
Dear Jesus, You are the Lord and Master of my life. Keep me faithful and humble so that I may live as Your disciple. Amen.