

The Journey of Discipleship

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples,

'Who do people say I am?'

And they told him,

'John the Baptist, others Elijah, others again, one of the prophets.'

'But you,' he asked them, 'who do you say I am?'

Mark 8:27-29

But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith.

Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, 'Who do you say I am?' It's confronting because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live, 'Who do you say I am?' You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. It doesn't ask, 'Who do you say I was?' It asks, 'Who do you say I AM?' The very question asks us to recognise that Jesus was not just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago but rather someone who continues to be a presence in our lives today. And he stands before each and every one of us today and asks that same, demanding, confronting, purposeful question: 'Who do YOU say I am?'

Greg Sunter
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SPEAK LORD

Speak Lord I am listening,
Let your Word be done unto me,
May it find a home in me.

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A call to discipleship is an invitation to allow the Spirit full reign within my life; to allow my soul to flourish. We discern the call in solitude and community. In experiencing another calling me to life by their witness, their encouragement, their confidence in me, I am encouraged to be and do the same for others.



PRAYER OF SIMPLICITY

Simply to sit with the Holy
open and trusting
and let the Holy
seep from the soul of your being
grace your thinking
become the ebb and flow of your existence....

Sit until you are opened
to the sacred in all.

Noel Davis
– *Here at the Edge: Trust me*

TAKING EACH OTHER BEYOND WHAT WE ALONE SEE

Accompanying each other

caring for each other

doing things together

taking each other
beyond what we alone see
to places we have never been

finding a way through the impasses
growing in trust and self-confidence
and the audacity to explore another way

bring into the light our un-lived selves
grow us into the fullness of ourselves
and expand the frontiers of our freedom
to choose.

Noel Davis
Together at the Edge: Trust me



As you ponder these two poems what are you hearing? Is there an invitation?

Share some of your reflection with the person next to you....



A PSALM OF DISCIPLESHIP

Bless these **hands**.
A woman who anointed Jesus
with a touch of tenderness
ministered to Jesus in his time of need.
Through my hands
may I touch with tenderness
those who I encounter in the daily,
especially those locked in pain and despair.

Bless these **feet**.

Disciples, men and women,
walked through Judea
accompanying Jesus,
listening to his wisdom
noticing his outreach
to those on the edge
then endeavouring
to walk and relate
in the ways Jesus modelled.
Bless my feet
to bring the gospel
to those I meet in the daily.



Bless this **heart**.

Jesus was a man of the heart.
He responded from deep within
ignoring the law if it was not of life.
He forgave with compassion:
the woman caught in adultery;
Peter with a look of love
after being denied thrice.
Bless my heart in such a way
that Jesus is enabled to love through me
in the ordinary daily encounters.

Bless my **spirit**

so that it is attuned to your Spirit
and give me the courage
to live each day conscious
that you are within me
and in each person I encounter.
Let heart speak to heart.
Amen

Leone Pallisier

Thoughts and suggestions:

This is the initial reflection in the section on discipleship. It begins with the question Jesus asks of us daily: *Who do you say I am?* It is a question that we grow into through our daily living. A sacred space with a bowl of water and a branch of a tree could draw us into connecting discipleship to our baptismal commitment. Through baptism we are welcomed into the Christian community with the responsibility both to grow in wisdom and to participate in nurturing the life of the community. One way of linking baptism to today would be to ask the group to read quietly the *Psalm of Discipleship* and ask them to discern what most contributes to my work as disciple at this point in time: hands, feet, heart, spirit. Then invite one person to read the psalm pausing after each stanza to allow those who have focused on hands to stand and be blessed with the water... continue this way for each stanza.