

GOD IS ASKING YOU TODAY

Who Do You Say That I AM?

Matthew 16:15

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Who do you say that I am?"

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 16, Jesus asks this question in Caesarea Philippi. It is significant where He asks it. Caesarea Philippi was a pagan city, full of temples to Greek gods and to Caesar. There was a massive rock face there, with a shrine to the god Pan. It was a place of many identities, many gods, many opinions.

And in the middle of that noise, Jesus asks His disciples: "Who do people say that I am?" They answer with the opinions: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah. Good answers, but safe. Second-hand faith.

Then He makes it personal: "But who do you say that I am?"

Faith cannot remain second-hand forever. There comes a moment when we must answer for ourselves, not with what our parents believed, not what the priest said, not what social media says about Jesus, but who He is to me.

Peter, impetuous Peter, speaks up: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is not a conclusion he reached by logic. Jesus says, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." Faith is a grace, a revelation.

And because Peter professes who Jesus is, Jesus tells him who he is: "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

Notice the exchange. When you tell Jesus who He is, He tells you who you are.

In a world of many voices like Caesarea Philippi, Christ still asks us the same question. Our answer will determine not only our identity, but our destiny.

Who do you say that He is?

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,
Pastor

