

24th SUNDAY YEAR B REFLECTION 2021.
THE GREAT QUESTION WHO DO THEY SAY I AM!

It is so easy to tell what others says about something or somebody but when the question turns to you then the challenge occurs. **What about you? What do you say? This is what the apostles experienced.** We also experience this as followers of Christ. Who do people say I am? They gave all the people a say, **John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets.** People had seen all the qualities of the great men of the Bible in Jesus and of course he had all the aspects of them. **But who do you say that I am?** That was the most challenging thing for them until the great Peter came to their rescue.

The person of Jesus is clearly manifested in our first reading. Isaiah talks of the qualities of the servant of God which fits the person of Jesus very well. He will be **open to hear and to do the will of God. He won't resist, he will never turn away, he will offer his face, back, and cheeks to those who plot against Him. He will never turn his face from insults and frustrations and above all he will trust in God since God will rescue him.** This is the servant of God; this is Jesus Christ. Peter after seeing the works of Jesus went ahead, telling who Jesus was. **"You are the Christ the Messiah"**. He had seen in Jesus the one to deliver the Israelites from bondage, a political militant leader, an earthly king like David and Solomon, a national revolutionary and revival figure of restoration. This is Peter's idea of who Christ was. Jesus took the opportunity to teach them his mission and who he was which was very scandalous to all of them including His apostles. They couldn't understand Him, that he would be subjected to **suffering, carrying the cross, dying and rising.** The hopes began to diminish, and some couldn't take more than this. He further gave them the most challenging quality of discipleship that, **" If anyone want to be a follower of mine let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.** These words are being echoed to us in our present-day

discipleship. How do you take it? How do you see the person of Christ? What do you say of who He is? Are you taking up the cross of your family, work, church, government, others? Might you be loading others with unnecessary crosses while they are struggling with theirs! Peter had to take him aside to give him some advice and Jesus rebuked him, ***“Get behind me Satan.”*** Peter was trying to evade the cross which we all do in one way or the other. St. James in his letter is further giving us remedies of the proper discipleship which is a way of expressing our **Faith, hope, and love** as followers of Christ.

We must show our **good acts, be mindful of others’ needs, food, clothing, water.** This is a proper way of carrying our crosses daily.

Faith in action not a dormant one. We must show our faith by good works.

-A lamp that doesn’t give light is worthless.

-A fruitful tree may blossom but if it doesn’t give fruit is barren.

-Faith that doesn’t result in good works is dead.

-Fruits of prayer is faith.

-Fruits of faith is love.

-Fruits of love is service.

-Fruits of service is PEACE.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST TO YOU!