

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024: Is 50:5-9a | Ps 116:1-9 |
Jas 2:14-18 | Mk 8:27-35

Pray: Lord Jesus, help me take up my cross and follow you in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Who is Jesus to YOU?

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say I am?” and “Who do you think I am?” This is a typical question for most of us, too. We want to know what people think about us, which often influences our self-concept, actions, reasoning, and confidence. Sometimes, caring too much about what others think can be unhealthy, but other times, when seeking a close relationship with someone, this is very important.



People usually try to get to know each other first before entering any true and lasting friendship, especially a romantic relationship. Spending time together to learn what is important to one another is crucial. We try to learn everything we can about each other’s likes/dislikes, values, hopes, dreams, goals, fears, concerns, and life experiences. After sharing, we may ask ourselves, “how do they see me? Does this person accept me for who I am?” The other person probably thinks the same thing because mutual acceptance builds respect and trust, vital in any loving relationship.

Jesus wanted a personal, loving, and trusting relationship with His disciples and desires the

same kind of intimate friendship with us. Once the disciples acknowledged Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus told them the hard truths they would need to accept, even if they didn’t yet fully understand, that He would suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Not only this, but all who love and believe in Him must do the same if they genuinely trust Him.

Today, Jesus continues to ask, “Who am I to you? Are you willing to spend time with me as your intimate friend and confidant? Do you believe my teachings even when it seems hard? Are you willing to put your faith in me into action? Will you accept your own suffering, persecutions, trials, and crosses in this life, trusting that I will carry you to eternal joy and peace with my Father?”

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Are there some parts of your life where you must align your actions with your Catholic beliefs?
- † What crosses and sacrifices has God asked you to bear, and has any good come from them?
- † How can you strengthen your relationship with Jesus and your acceptance of difficult Church teachings?
- † How can you help others in their journey of faith?