

Christ asks His Apostles a personal question in our gospel. We see that He starts generally, "Who do people say that I am?" We get a myriad of answers a prophet, John the Baptist, Elijah, it is the same in the world today if you ask people who was Jesus, a holy man, a prophet a good person. Christ continues, "But who do you say that I am?" No longer a general question but one pointed directly at the Apostles, directly at you and me.

St. Peter's answer is incredible, perfect, beyond understanding! It is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that revealed this to him, and Peter trusted it enough to say it out loud. This is said before the transfiguration, before Christ's death and resurrection, this was a leap of faith.

"You are the Christ, the son of the living God". The answer that requires us not only to believe but to kneel down in adoration. I think because Peter trusted, even though he would trip and fall, God made him the first Pope.

That is the second idea of our readings this weekend. If you trust in God, if He has chosen you, if you walk with Him, He will give you responsibilities over other souls. We see this in our first reading where God removes one King of the Jewish people and replaces him with another. More importantly, in our Gospel St. Peter's trust is rewarded with the Keys of authority of the Church Jesus is founding in the hearts of His Apostles.

This authority and its reach have been debated by every age of Christians, but we as Catholics see it as our guiding light through the haze of culture and time. It allows the Church to have difficult conversations and arguments and still remain one. We as Catholics have to trust not only in Scripture but also in the teaching authority of the Pope and the Church. We are not a religion that is sola scriptura (scripture alone) but believe Scripture and Tradition (teachings of the Church, decisions of the Pope and the Bishops) guide or ability to live lives that please God.

In your prayer life this week answer the question Jesus asks His Apostles. "Who do you say that I am?"

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you,
Fr. Adam