

February 20, 2025

Daily Reflections



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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Pre-Reading Reflection

- What is your name?
 - Does your name have a meaning?
 - Are you named after someone in your family?
 - What name do you prefer to be called?
 - Do different people call you different names?
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Today's Gospel

*Jesus and his disciples set out
for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
Along the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"*

*They said in reply,
“John the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others one of the prophets.”
And he asked them,
“But who do you say that I am?”
Peter said to him in reply,
“You are the Christ.”*

*Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.
He began to teach them
that the Son of Man must suffer greatly
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and rise after three days.
He spoke this openly.
Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,
rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”*

MARK 8:27-33



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Reflection

This reading is at the center of Mark's Gospel—in terms of the number of chapters (8 of 16) and in terms of the message. Immediately before this passage, Jesus healed a deaf man (7:31-37); fed "four thousand (8:1-10); engaged with Pharisees (8:11-21); and restored sight to a blind man (8:22-26). In this conversation with his disciples, Jesus begins to preview his suffering and death.

Put yourself in the scene: Jesus and his disciples are walking toward the villages of Caesarea Philippi; he asks them what people are saying about him: "Who do people say that I am?" They answer and he poses a more challenging question, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter makes a declaration of faith, "You are the Christ" and Jesus tells them "not to tell anyone about him."

Who do you say that I am? What name do you call me? Who am I to you? What do I mean to you?

The Gospels are full of titles/names for Jesus—Son of God (Mark 14:16); Son of Man (Mark 2:10); Son of Mary (Mark 6:3); Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23); Lamb of God (John 1:29); Alpha and Omega (Rev 22:13); King of the Jews (Matthew 27:37); Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6); Bread of Life (John 6:35); Redeemer (Isaiah 59:20); the Living Stone (1 Peter 2:4-8).

In this passage, Peter uses “Christ,” a title that comes from a Greek word “christos,” anointed; it refers to one commissioned by God for a special task. It is related to the Hebrew word for “messiah.”

Jesus acknowledges that this is who he is when he tells the disciples “not to tell anyone about him” and then he uses the title “Son of Man” to further reveal who he is—one who “must suffer greatly, be rejected and killed” and who will “rise after three days.”

That is too much for Peter, who takes Jesus aside and “rebukes” him. Peter rebukes—criticizes, reprimands, reproves, admonishes—Jesus. And Jesus rebukes Peter, calling him “Satan” because he is “thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

A lot of name calling!

What is your name, title for Jesus? What does it mean for you? Has this changed over time? When do you use it?

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