

## REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Reading: Matthew 16:13-20 (NT page 983)

Sermon

The text verse for the sermon is verse: <sup>15</sup> Then Jesus said to his followers, "And who do you say I am?"

I find it so fascinating being a human being. I mean when you think about your own existence, you have to be amazed too. Not one human being is the same –not even identical twins! And I must tell you this very funny story about two identical twins from South Africa. And they are so alike that their family members have asked one of them not to shave. But lets focus on the story. Both of them studied architecture and decided after completing school to come to London for a new work experience. One of them had a very important job interview with an impressive company but the night before, how should I say had to much to drink. So on the morning of the interview he pleaded with his identical twin brother to go in his place. So after a few words of encouragement, his brother agreed. But as it was not his own interview, so he was nervous. Everything went fine until the last few minutes when the company boss who also joined the interview, asked him the direct question: "you have answered all our questions very well and I am satisfied. However, what bothers me is the fact that are you so abnormally nervous? How are you going to manage in a stressfull situation? It was then that he just spilled the beans and told them the truth. They appreciated his honesty, gave him the job and phoned his brother for a

telling off. There is no way for one human being, even a look alike, to be like the other!

We all have different opinions and views. No wonder there is so much conflict, churches, religions and sects. No wonder that this question of Jesus is more than a rhetorical question.

It is not a philosophical question where we have to seek for the answer in airy language, it is not an academic question where we have to read many books and articles to come to an answer.

It is - in fact an existential question rooted at the very core of each and every human being.

So let us ask it again in the language of our modern day world: Who is Jesus for you?

Is He the judge whom you think is going to send you straight away to hell because you are a sinner and struggling maintaining a relationship with God?

Is He the policemen whom you think is writing down all the bad things you do on a regular basis?

Is He the priest whom you think is good enough only to see when you go to church?

IS HE the financial director whom you think is going to bless you with loads of money because you do good deeds?

Is He the medical doctor whom you think is only going to “completely heal” you from your illness?

Or is He the ONE whom you meet on a regular basis in faith, trusting and obeying HIM. Is He the One that meets you in your hour of need helping you to cope with the challenges that life brings.

Jesus will be different to each of us because we are so different. And it is ok that we are so different as long as we make time to have a relationship with Jesus. It is one hundred percent ok that we worship, pray and sing differently in our lives of faith. To have a relationship with Jesus is no competition where one can boast saying: I have more faith than you?

No Jesus meets us in His own time and place amidst our own circumstance and changes the core of our beings. And no-one who has been touched by the grace of Jesus Christ, will be the same forever. He will be different to our children, addressing their needs. He will be different to the mother and father who cries of the loss of their children, He will be different to the elderly, sitting alone in their rooms. He will be different to those who are ill and struggling with pain. He will be different to the homeless, to the prisoners, the victims, the abused and the aggressors. He will be different to

all those trapped in war. He will be different to all those suffering under the threat of the Ebola virus.

In fact He will reckon with all those who acts in an unjustly manner, who abuse and are violent to those who cannot defend themselves. He will in his own time and place confront you and me with just one question: Who am I to you?

And whoever He is to you, will be seen in the way you believe, hope and love.

So George and Jill, go out here this morning and answer this question and whatever your personal take or opinion is, convey it to Joanna, Freya and Martha so that they too can find out who Jesus is to them.

Hopefully we all go out, and have the same opinion that Jesus is our Rock, our key to God's kingdom and our salvation...something that he showed this morning through the baptism of three girls.

Amen