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## **(Food for thought)**

Gospel: Mark 8: 27-35

### *Coming to Sight*

Jesus asked His disciples two very pointed questions: Who do people say that I am? Who do you say that I am?

The answers to these questions go beyond mere excitement and enthusiasm, and touch the very makeup of the call to discipleship. As the first disciples came to understand who Christ really was and what He was about, they also came to realize what challenges were in store for them as they preached the "Good News."

He is inviting us to let go of our notions of who we think Jesus ought to be for us and accept him as He is - one who accepts the cross and invites us to do the same. This gospel is telling us that divine logic makes more sense than human logic and it offers us a life we could never reason to or achieve on our own.

Today's Gospel message is the challenge to lose ourselves in concern for others. If we truly love every other person as Jesus has loved us, then we don't look at risk, or color, or public opinion, or all of the other excuses for walking away. Do you know who I am? Do you know me? Jesus' question is addressed to us now. And we, His followers answer readily, "You are the Christ. You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the Living God." But there is an implied crucial follow-up question as well: "How well do we know Him?"

The world around us is also asking: "Who are you? What are you about? Why do you do what you do?" Hopefully, everything we say and do will proclaim very loudly and clearly: "We are faithful followers of Jesus Christ, who we proclaim as our Lord and Savior. We are His hands, His eyes, His heart, His body. We bring His light and truth to our world. In His name, and by His power, we are trying to remake the face of the earth, to renew our world, to overcome evil and suffering, to restore all things in Him."

