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Based on the gospel for 12 September, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 8:27-35

“But you’, Jesus asked ‘who do you say I am?’”

Jesus is journeying to Jerusalem and to the Cross. En-route, he stops to ask his followers a key question: ‘who do people say I am?’ Then, ‘who do you say I am?’ Today, Jesus is asking me, directly, the same question. What is my own response going to be?

The life, death and resurrection of Christ, the Messiah – what does this mean for me? For those suffering in the world today? For the misunderstood, the rejected, the overlooked, the oppressed, for those whose lives are being cut short even as I am praying this reflection? In my daily life, how am I challenged to think as God thinks and not as the world thinks; not as I would like to think?

I might, now, ask of myself a question. Who do I say I am? What kind of follower am I? How am I being called to renounce myself and take up my daily cross? To support others in the carrying of their crosses and even, through loving self-sacrifice, to put the life of another before my own?

Lord, you are the Christ, and for you this meant generous service and loving renunciation. Help me to follow you willingly through faith expressed in good works. Amen.



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This reflection and prayer were written by Ged Johnson, spiritual director at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales



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