

Who do you say that I am?

**1. Read (Seek)** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate (Find)** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage.  
**God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray (Ask)** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate (Taste)** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence. **How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

linktoliturgy.com

# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? Matthew 16:13-20**— Pg. 1

**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3

**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:13-20 – Roman Missal

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

## Spiritual Reading

*From the letter of the Apostle Paul to Titus 1:7-11*

The bishop as God’s steward must be blameless. He may not be self-willed or arrogant, a drunkard, a violent or greedy man. He should, on the contrary, be hospitable and a lover of goodness; steady, just, holy, and self-controlled. In his teaching he must hold fast to the authentic message, so that he will be able both to encourage men to follow sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. There are many irresponsible teachers, especially from among the Jewish converts – men who are empty talkers and deceivers. These must be silenced. They are upsetting whole families by teaching things they have no right to teach – and all for sordid gain!

**SIGN UP free for  
Link to Liturgy**



[1] John Paul II, Homily at Belo Horizonte, 1 July 1980

[2] Rite of Baptism

[3] In Conversation with God 4, 73.1

### **Speak for Yourself – Lesson and Discussion**

*“but who do you say that I am”*

For some people, speaking in groups can be difficult. Either we're too shy, too scared, too timid, or not interested in what is being discussed. We've probably heard someone say, “Uh, yeah what he/she said.” trying to avoid speaking up and voicing their own personal thoughts or feelings on the subject. In this Sunday's Gospel we see Jesus asking the question, “Who do you say that I am?”

**How do the Apostles respond to Jesus' question?** They first give accounts of what others think of Jesus. “Some say you're Elijah, some say you're a prophet.”

**Why does Jesus then ask a second time “Who do you say that I am?”** Jesus was not asking what others thought, but what specifically the Apostles thought of Him. They had been following Jesus for some time now, and had seen all that Jesus had done. Jesus was asking them to test them and to test their faith in Him. It was Peter at this moment that had the courage to speak up and profess that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God.

**Why should we speak about who Jesus Christ is?** Saint John Paul II wrote, “We all know this moment in which it is no longer sufficient to speak about Jesus by repeating what others have said. You must say what you think, and not quote an opinion. You must bear witness, feel committed by the witness you have borne and carry this commitment to its extreme consequences. The best friends, followers and apostles of Christ have always been those who heard within them one day the definitive, secondary and derivative: ‘For you who am I?’”[1] We can study and learn everything about Christ, but until we can answer as Peter answered, we are not living fully in our Christian faith. In the Rite of Baptism during the Ephphetha (Prayer over Ears and Mouth), the priest or deacon says, “The Lord Jesus came into the world to proclaim the Good News. [Child's Name], may [she/ he] soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.”[2] If we do not speak up, if we do not proclaim the faith for the praise and glory of God the Father, we are not living out our baptismal vows. At some point in our life, we have to make the decision to live out our baptismal vows, to take them seriously. This is why the Church continually gives us opportunities to renew or baptismal vows within the liturgy. Many Christians who were baptized at a young age have a moment in their life where they had a deeper conversion and took the faith seriously for the first time. It is this moment where the faith is embraced and the words of Saint Peter are echoed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” If this deeper conversion does not happen prior to Confirmation, many times Confirmation is the moment of embracing the faith. If the deeper conversion does not happen at Confirmation, God in His mercy does not give up but rather continues to call us into an intimate relationship

with Him. **Has the “deeper conversion” taken place in your life? If it has, when and why? If we feel that it has not taken place, what would have to happen to take Christ and the Church seriously?**

**Why was Peter the only one to speak up?** Peter spoke up because the question finds a special resonance in the heart of Peter, who was moved by a special grace. Jesus calls Peter ‘blessed’ for his truth-filled reply in which he confesses in the divinity of Christ.[3]

We all must summon the wisdom and courage like Peter did to give witness to Christ. We must be able to freely speak for ourselves to give testimony of our Catholic faith; That Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. That He formed one Church on this planet and the Gates of Hell shall never prevail against it. **Discuss a time when you agreed with something, but didn't say anything until someone else spoke up. Why did you not speak up? How can we be the one to speak up first next time?**