

Who do you say that I am?

There is an Asian parable about a man who goes to a great teacher to learn. He climbs the mountain, braves the hazards of the wild, and comes to the hut on the desolate peak. As he begins speaking to the master, he starts to tell all about himself and how much he has studied, how much he has learned. And while he is talking about himself, the master begins to prepare a pot of tea. As the man continues about all of his accomplishments, the master starts to pour the tea into the man's cup. But when it reaches the top, the master keeps on pouring.

The man abruptly stops talking about himself and jumps up, shouting "What are you doing? It's already full!" To which the master replies, "What do you hope to learn from me? You are already full of your own thoughts and ideas."

Who do the crowds say that I am?

When the disciples first answer this, it is on behalf of the crowds. And looking back at this through 2,000 years of history, we can tell that they have it all wrong. There are plenty of expectations and ideas of who Jesus could be, but no one seems to be paying much attention to who he really is.

Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say that I am?"

And I think that by extension, Jesus asks us the same question.

Who do we say that Jesus is?

Perhaps a more probing question would be to turn the tables and for us to ask God, "Who do You say that I am?"

We all know who we would like to be, but who does God say that we are? Who is the person I was created to be? Who is the David that is the image and likeness of God?

Who am I ... in Christ?

It is very important that we know this about ourselves. Certainly we are beloved daughters and sons of God the Father, adopted brothers of Jesus Christ, infused with the power of the Holy Spirit.

But do we KNOW this? Do we feel it in our bones? Do we know it with every fiber of our being?

Let us pray that God will not only reveal who he is to us, each and every moment of each and every day; but also that he will make known to us who we are in Him. Let us ask God to tell us: "Who do You say that I am?"