

May 15, 2008
Thursday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

James 2:1-9

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Mark 8:27-33

"But who do you say that I am?"

I believe that the answer to that question is reflected in the life we live everyday. Recently, I listened to a presentation by a Jesuit priest on peace and justice. He challenged us to look at Jesus as a messenger of God's intention that we to live a life of peace and total nonviolence. While this priest is an activist, willing to be arrested as he peacefully protests the injustice in our world, his message is non the less challenging to those of us who do not feel the same call to protest injustice in that particular way. What does Jesus represent to me? What is his life about? What do I value enough to die for? What do I give my energy and time to? What is worth the effort, the struggle, the disappointments, or the pain? These are all different ways to ask the question Jesus asks us in today's gospel. I believe that whatever we reflect to the world-- in all our interactions-- is who we say Jesus is. Do my actions say that Jesus is an avenger, a grudge bearer, and a judge? Do I get frustrated and impatient with the mistakes of others? Do I refuse to forgive? Do I live my as if I deserved good fortune? Do I consider the needs of others as important as my own? Is the message of Jesus the center of my life?

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.

G. K. Chesterton