

## **Homily Summary: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Main Theme:**

Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" is central to today's Gospel. Just as Peter was asked, we too are invited to reflect on who Jesus is in our lives and how that affects the way we live.

### **Key Points:**

- The synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) are very similar, reflecting their divine inspiration.
- Jesus seeks to comfort and support us, but He also challenges us to recognize Him for who He truly is: the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God.
- Father Gregory shared his own journey from being far from God during his university years to recognizing Jesus as God, which led to deep transformation.
- C.S. Lewis' famous "Liar, Lunatic, or Lord" argument from *Mere Christianity* explains that Jesus is either who He claimed to be (God) or something far less. If Jesus is Lord, it demands our whole-hearted response.
- Jesus' claim to divinity is undeniable and is the reason for His crucifixion, as seen in John 10:33.
- The Catholic Church, as the institution founded by Christ, has shaped the world in education, charity, and scientific progress—pointing to the divine truth of its foundation.
- Our response to Jesus' question should reflect in our lives, through faith, good works, and growing closer to Him through prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Who do *you* say Jesus is? How does this answer impact your daily life?
2. Do you allow Jesus to guide your actions and decisions, especially with family, friends, and colleagues?
3. How does your faith show itself in works? As James says, "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17).
4. How does the example of Mary inspire you to fully follow Jesus in all circumstances?

### **Resolutions:**

- Take time this week to reflect on your personal relationship with Jesus.
- Spend more time in prayer, asking Jesus to help you deepen your faith and trust in Him.
- Consider reading a Gospel passage each day to grow closer to Christ.
- If it's been a while, consider going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to experience Jesus' mercy.

**Quote from Scripture:** "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29)

**Quote from C.S. Lewis:** "You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse." - C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

**Mary's Example:** Mary's life perfectly reflected her faith in Jesus as the Son of God. She always responded with a full-hearted "yes" to God's will, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide her actions, just as we are called to follow Christ in every circumstance.

### **Rhyme to Summarize:**

Jesus asked a question, who do we say?  
He's the Christ, the Lord, guiding our way.  
C.S. Lewis said it, we've got to decide,  
Mad, bad, or God—no other place to hide.  
Follow Him with all, don't live a façade,  
Jesus is Lord, Savior, and God.  
With Mary as our guide, let's say yes,  
To live in His love, He'll handle the rest.

## **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

## **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>