

## **WHOSE ARE YOU?**

Fellow Pilgrims:

Scripture asks us many questions and helps us find answers rooted in the Word of God. I believe strongly that Scripture is the foundation of my faith and life. Do I mess up? Yes I do. I am human and fallible. Nonetheless, I try to follow the guidance of Scripture to the best of my ability.

Psalm 119: 105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” In addition, I hold Micah 6:8 very dear. It is concrete, succinct, and precise. It says, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.” This echoes Jesus’ teaching about love. He affirms the Great Commandment to love God and your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39), and He also gives His disciples a new commandment, to love one another as He loves us (John 13:34). In another setting he says we are to be salt and light to the world (Matthew 5: 13-16).

I want to pose several questions for you that come from Scripture.

“Adam, where are you?”

God asks this of Adam in Genesis 3. Eve and Adam have eaten the forbidden fruit, realized they are naked, and are ashamed. They hear God and hide. Do we ever hide from God? Do we ever fear to face God? We need to remember that Jesus Christ became man and died for us. With repentance comes forgiveness and the facing of God.

“Cain, where is your brother?”

God asks this of Cain in Genesis 4. Cain hated his brother enough to kill him. Hatred is a corrosive poison that hardens us as it transforms us. It can take us over and become the motivating power in our life. It loves the darkness. Who is our brother? How are we to behave towards our brothers and sisters? Are we not to love them as if they were ourselves?

“Who do you say I am?”

In Matthew 16, Jesus asks the disciples to individually answer the question of who He is. Is he a madman claiming to be God? Is he a rebel against Rome and the Jewish establishment? Is he a prophet, born of a virgin, but not divine? Through the ages, people answer the question of who Jesus is. Other faiths may claim Him as a holy man or prophet, but only Christianity says He is God. We each say or witness that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

“Do you love me?”

In John 21, Jesus asks the disciples if they love him. This is an important question because even the demons recognize Jesus as the Son of God, but they still reject Him and work hard to defeat and oppose Him. We may know Jesus as the Son of God, but do we love Him? In loving Him, do we love the creation He died for? How do we live out Jesus' love for us?

“Lord, who are you? Lord, what shall I do?”

In Acts 22, Paul is confronted on the road to Damascus. He is actively seeking out Christians to persecute them. In this confrontation, Paul asks the name of the spiritual force confronting him. Imagine his terror and guilt when the answer to this first question is, “Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.” He is courageous and honest enough to ask what he should do. Who is the lord, or lords, of your life? To what do you devote your time, talent, and treasure? Are you willing to prayerfully ask God what you should do?

“Who are you?”

Some demons in Acts 19 ask this question of people pretending to do miracles in the name of Jesus. The demons say they know Jesus and Paul but do not know these false miracle workers. The demons overpower these false miracle workers and beat them until they flee naked and bleeding. We do need to ask the question of ourselves, “Who am I?” I don't believe we can answer this question unless we first ask, “*Whose* am I?” If I am Christ's, all else follows. If I am not Christ's, I am lost.

In examining these questions, my prayer for you is from the Sarum Primer of 1558: “God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing. Amen.”

In Christ's love,  
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