



QUESTION

The Question that
Changes Everything*Radiant Reflections with Pastor Temaris*

5 - Day Devotional

Week of September 15, 2024

Devotional Summary:

This five-day devotional, titled "The Question That Changes Everything," explores Jesus' question to His disciples in Mark 8:27-38: "Who do you say I am?" Each day focuses on how answering this question transforms how we live, from embracing the true mission of Christ to denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and boldly following Him. As you journey through these reflections, may you be encouraged to live a life fully surrendered to the Messiah, unashamed of His gospel, and transformed by the power of His love.

Day 1: The Most Important Question**Scripture:** Mark 8:27-29

Reflection: Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" After hearing various answers, He asked the more personal and pressing question: "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" This is the question that changes everything. Each of us must confront this question and decide who Jesus is to us personally. A true understanding of Jesus as the Messiah is the foundation of our faith and shapes how we live our lives.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to answer Your question with conviction. Reveal to me the depths of who You are and let that truth transform my life. Amen.

Action Step: Take time today to reflect on your personal answer to the question, "Who do you say Jesus is?" Write down your response and consider how it impacts your daily life.

Day 2: Understanding the Messiah**Scripture:** Mark 8:31-32

Reflection: After Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus explains that He must suffer, be rejected, and die before rising again. This was not the kind of Messiah the disciples expected. We often want Jesus to fit our expectations, but following the true Messiah means accepting His mission and His way, even when it leads through suffering.

Prayer: Father, help me to accept the true mission of Christ, even when it challenges my expectations or desires. Give me the strength to follow Your plan and not my own. Amen.

Action Step: Reflect on areas in your life where you may have tried to shape Jesus to fit your expectations. Ask God for the courage to embrace His true mission, even when it leads through difficult paths.

Day 3: Denying Self and Taking Up the Cross

Scripture: Mark 8:34

Reflection: Jesus makes a bold statement to the crowd and His disciples: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Following Jesus is not just about belief but about action about self-denial and sacrifice. To follow Jesus, we must be willing to surrender our own desires and be ready to face trials, just as He did.

Prayer: Lord, teach me what it means to deny myself and follow You. Help me to surrender my will to Yours and take up my cross daily. Amen.

Action Step: Identify one area where self-denial is necessary in your life. What do you need to let go of in order to more fully follow Jesus? Take a step toward surrender today.

Day 4: Gaining by Losing

Scripture: Mark 8:35-37

Reflection: Jesus says, "Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." In a world that values self-preservation, Jesus teaches that true life is found in surrendering to Him. The paradox is clear: We gain eternal life by letting go of our grip on earthly life and giving ourselves fully to Christ.

Prayer: Lord, help me to understand that real life is found in You. Give me the grace to release my attachment to earthly things and fully trust in Your promise of eternal life. Amen.

Action Step: Consider what you are holding onto tightly in life be it ambitions, fears, or possessions. Ask God to help you loosen your grip and trust Him with your life.

Day 5: The Cost of Following Jesus

Scripture: Mark 8:38

Reflection: Jesus warns that if we are ashamed of Him and His words, He will be ashamed of us when He comes in glory. This is a call to boldly live out our faith, unashamed of the gospel. Following Jesus has a cost, but the reward is eternal. Are we willing to stand with Jesus, even when it goes against the world's values?

Prayer: Jesus, give me the boldness to stand for You, no matter the cost. Help me to live unashamed of the gospel and to trust in Your eternal promise. Amen.

Action Step: Reflect on times when you've been hesitant to openly live out your faith. Ask God for the courage to boldly proclaim His name in your daily life, even in difficult circumstances.

Reflection