

**24 OTB.18;** Isa 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-38 ... *Who do you look like?*

**Has anyone ever told you that you are spitting image of Elvis Presley, or Betty Davis, or Bon Jovi, or Aretha Franklin!** Or, maybe your grandparents and parents?

*Who* we look like is a question ... we must ask ourselves today.

**At Caesarea Philippi** Jesus asks, **“Who do people say that I am?”** The disciples respond with the latest rumors and village talk – **“John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets.”** That’s not good enough ... because they have been with him watching his every move, listening to his every word. Jesus asks again,

**“But, who do you say that I am?”** Peter responds, **“You are the Christ.”**

**And, yes, it was a loaded question!**

**Let’s consider our response, but first an old story ....**

“There was a little boy who wanted *to meet God*. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed a suitcase full of Twinkies and root beer, and set out on his journey. When he’d gone about 3 blocks, he saw a wrinkled old man sitting in the park, staring at the pigeons. The boy sat down next to him, and was about to drink a root beer when he noticed the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. He accepted it & gave him a smile so wonderful that the boy wanted to see it again. **So he offered him a root beer.**

**And once again the old man smiled his big, grandfatherly smile.**

The boy was delighted, and the two of them sat there all afternoon, eating and smiling, watching the pigeons and never saying a word. As it grew dark, the boy set out for home. But before he’d taken more than a few steps, he ran back and

... *gave the old man a hug. And the old man gave him the biggest smile of all.*

When the boy got home, his mother was amazed at the look on his face.

“What did you do today that made you so happy?” she asked.

**“I had lunch with God,” he said.**

**“And you know what? He’s got the most wonderful smile I’ve ever seen!”**

**Meanwhile,** the old man returned home where his daughter was also surprised by the look on his face. *“Dad,” she asked, “what did you do today that made you so happy?”* **The old fellow replied, “I ate Twinkies in the park with God.**

**You know, he’s much younger than I expected!”**

(Source: *Sunday Mornings 2*, Clark, 24 OTB)

We struggle so hard to become people of faith, to be authentically Christian. And slowly we try our best, piece by piece, to entrust ourselves into God’s hands.

**That’s when the way we see the world ... changes.**

Slowly we begin to see our world, our lives, through God’s eyes. Only then do all the things that Jesus taught us *begin to make sense*. We see what a precious gift life is, and what a treasure each human being is. **We begin to see on the faces** of our ... neighbors, who they really are - *the image and likeness* of our God.

**2 And that's not all!** Seeing what God sees gives us *the power* to do what God does. And what is that? It is to care for and delight in every single piece of ... creation - especially the Father's BIG family.

Now, if you're wondering whether you're really a Person of faith, an authentic Christian, and not some a cheap imitation, you need only ask yourself two simple questions: *What do I see when I look at the world?*

*And, what do I do about it?*

Or, more concretely, what do I see when I look at *a funny little kid* with a suitcase full of Twinkies and root beer, or *a rumped old man* on a park bench?

**Do I see what God sees? What do I do then?**

**A definite decision is required....**

Fr. Richard Rohr a Franciscan Spiritual Advisor and writer has said, *"If you don't choose daily and deliberately to practice loving kindness, it is unlikely that a year from now you will be any more loving."* — Richard Rohr

**Yes, "we are our choices."** – Jean Paul Sartre

If we claim to know *the Christ*, then we should live, walk and act as he would.

**We should look like him...**

as *James* said so eloquently, *"What good is it... if someone says he has faith and no works?... If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,*

*... "but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?"*

Knowing who Jesus is, is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually *living* the Word *as* life unfolds day to day. This kind of life, this identity, requires a deep understanding of the Christ Peter met at *Caesarea Philippi*.

**It requires an attitude of sacrifice and a willing compassion.**

**It requires the courage to act boldly.**

Jesus tells his disciples, *"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it."*

At this *Liturgy of Sharing the Cross*, may we respond: “Jesus, you are who Peter said you are. ***“You are the Christ”***. You are the one I choose to follow with shoulders ready to bear *with you the weight of the world*. And why?

Because, *I am* my sister’s and brother’s keeper.

Suffering will be transformed into the Glory of the Kingdom.

**Jesus, move over, WE’VE got this.....”**