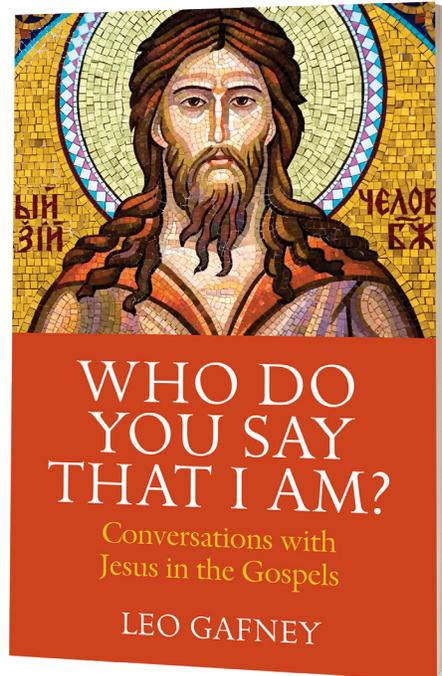


WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

QUESTIONS *for* DISCUSSION & REFLECTION



CHAPTER 1 + Coming of Age

1. *What new understandings of Jesus came to you when reading the chapter?*
2. *What might Jesus have learned about himself and his mission?*
3. *What was an important “coming of age” experience for you?*
4. *In what ways were you helped in your coming of age?*
5. *How have you helped another person come of age?*
6. *When do “coming of age” experiences make us uncomfortable?*
7. *What was important to St. Francis in coming of age?*
8. *In what ways might the church come of age once again in our day?*
9. *What examples have you read or heard about well-known Christians coming of age?*

CHAPTER 2 + No Security

1. *In what ways does Jesus’ humanity show itself in this chapter?*
2. *How did your thinking about Jesus change based on the chapter?*
3. *When and in what ways is touching important to us as Christians?*
4. *How are the differences among us, as St. Therese talks about them, important to our lives as Christians?*
5. *In what ways do you try to stand out?*
6. *What special kinds of prayer are you led to as a result of this chapter?*
7. *In what ways do you respond to others?*

CHAPTER 3 + The Greatest and the Least

1. *How did Jesus as rabbi teach his disciples?*
2. *What new understandings did you gain about Jesus as a rabbi?*
3. *What did you learn from the chapter about how to follow Jesus?*
4. *How has the church recognized and celebrated its leaders?*
5. *What do spiritual exercises mean to you?*
6. *How can spiritual exercises help you better follow Jesus?*
7. *How has your thinking about being a Christian changed?*

CHAPTER 4 + To See

1. *What questions do you have after reading this chapter?*
2. *In what ways do you need help to see things as Jesus saw them?*
3. *In what ways are you blind?*
4. *What new ways of seeing have you experienced?*
5. *What does “pray without ceasing” mean to you?*
6. *How can we help one another see more clearly?*

CHAPTER 5 + A Question

1. *What new ways of thinking about God came to you?*
2. *Why do we ask questions?*
3. *What different names for God are most appealing to you?*
4. *Who is Jesus in your thinking and your prayer?*
5. *Who do you say Jesus is when talking with others?*
6. *What questions do you have about God?*

CHAPTER 6 + Try Something Different

1. *At what times and circumstances did Jesus try something different?*
2. *Why do we often find it difficult to try something different?*
3. *Who has been an inspiration to you in trying to change?*
4. *What does the church need today to try something different?*
5. *What examples of changes seem to be working?*
6. *How have you changed in reading and praying with Scripture?*
7. *How have you tried something different in your Christian life?*

CHAPTER 7 + The Things that Are Caesar's

1. *What does it mean to you to “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s”?*
2. *How does group thinking enter into discussions about war?*
3. *What individual decisions have you made about patriotism and living as a Christian?*
4. *How do patriotism and Christianity sometimes conflict?*
5. *What are some of the ways we can use to reduce the numbers of abortions?*
6. *What can the church do to build bridges across nations?*

CHAPTER 8 + Two Blind Men

1. *What saint or Christian do you admire for his or her depth of faith and understanding?*
2. *In what ways is your faith challenged?*
3. *What was remarkable about St. Thomas More?*
4. *When is it helpful to have friends on our spiritual journey?*
5. *Why do we judge one another?*
6. *How can we better identify our own faults?*

CHAPTER 9 + God and Nature

1. *How are you connected to nature?*
2. *Where do you find God in nature?*
3. *Why is it sometimes difficult to find God in nature?*
4. *How does science support or challenge faith?*
5. *Why are the nature miracles difficult for us?*
6. *In what ways do you work with God?*

CHAPTER 10 + To Hear the Word of God

1. *What new understandings of Jesus did you gain from this chapter?*
2. *How have the gospels redirected your thinking?*
3. *How does the story of David and Bathsheba and Nathan speak to us?*
4. *How did the chapter make you think again about the meaning of the word “blessed”?*
5. *What does “blessed” mean to you?*

CHAPTER 11 + John the Baptizer

1. *What do you think about the worship of idols in today's world?*
2. *What new understandings have you had about Jesus?*
3. *What did baptism mean to Jesus and those around him?*
4. *What does baptism mean today?*
5. *What can we do to renew our appreciation of baptism?*
6. *Do you find it difficult to appreciate God's personal care?*

CHAPTER 12 + Dinner at Levi's

1. *What does it mean to you that Jesus came to call sinners?*
2. *What can we do to make Jesus' life and interactions with people more meaningful—as Caravaggio did?*
3. *What was the reputation of tax collectors in Jesus' time?*
4. *Why might Jesus have chosen Matthew?*
5. *What might you do to live more closely with Jesus' teachings?*

CHAPTER 13 + Marriage and Divorce

1. *How did Jesus' dealings with women differ from those of the people of his time?*
2. *What strikes you about Jesus' response to the woman?*
3. *What do marriage and divorce mean to you at this time of your life?*
4. *Why is divorce sometimes very difficult for the children?*
5. *What are some of the ingredients needed for a happy marriage?*
6. *What changes might the church adopt to help divorced people?*

CHAPTER 14 + The Life to Come

1. *Do you think there is less talk about heaven than there used to be?*
2. *Who is a Christian hero or saint for you?*
3. *Why do you admire this person?*
4. *What is most helpful to you in leading a Christian life?*
5. *What does it mean to you to say that "God is a God of the living"?*
6. *What is the best way to prepare for the life to come?*

CHAPTER 15 + The One Who Is to Come

1. *In what ways do you sometimes wonder whether Jesus is the one?*
2. *Were there times when you “took offense” or were embarrassed to be a Christian?*
3. *What does it mean to say that science does not answer the most important questions? Do you think this is true?*
4. *What “others” have people found to fill their hearts and minds?*
5. *What can we do together when we wonder about “the one who is to come”?*

CHAPTER 16 + The Time

1. *What does Jesus’ answer that “it is not for you to know the time” mean to you?*
2. *How is it helpful to think that the Holy Spirit is with us?*
3. *Do we have questions and concerns similar to those of the disciples?*
4. *What kind of kingdom were the disciples hoping for?*
5. *What kinds of “kingdoms” do we sometimes confuse with the kingdom Jesus talks about?*
6. *Do you sometimes think about two ways of living? What are they?*
7. *How is one different from the way we should live as followers of Christ?*

CHAPTER 17 + Jesus Looked at Him

1. *What is Jesus saying to you when you say you want to do more?*
2. *In what ways can you aim higher?*
3. *What are ways in which “your eye offends you”?*
4. *What does Tolstoy’s parable mean to you?*
5. *How can we not worry about what we will eat?*
6. *What can you do to build up the kingdom of God?*

CHAPTER 18 + Becoming the Other

1. *In what ways have you “become the other,” in recent days or weeks?*
2. *What repeated words, in prayers or vows, have been important to you?*
3. *What does tribalism mean in today’s world?*
4. *How have Christians at times become tribal?*
5. *What can we do to better identify ourselves with Christ?*

CHAPTER 19 + Compassion

1. *What comes to mind when you think about forgiveness?*
2. *What opportunities have you had recently to forgive?*
3. *How is it that forgiveness strengthens our connection to God?*
4. *What situations of repeated forgiveness have tested you?*
5. *Are there instances in which forgiving has turned anger to love?*
6. *Jesus has been called the compassion of God. What might this mean?*

CHAPTER 20 + A Better View

1. *How would you describe Zacchaeus?*
2. *What is your understanding of tax collectors at the time of Jesus?*
3. *What things get in the way of your view of Jesus?*
4. *What new understandings have you gained through a better view?*
5. *How can we help one another gain a better view?*

CHAPTER 21 + The Stones Would Shout Out

1. *What comes to mind when you visit or think about churches?*
2. *Are there ways in which we have overdone our attachment to buildings?*
3. *What cultural works have been important to you?*
4. *How have cultural works nourished your faith?*
5. *In what ways has the church appropriated culture as a support?*
6. *In what ways does the church live too much in the past?*

CHAPTER 22 + An Unclean Spirit

1. *What did unclean spirits mean in Jesus' ministry?*
2. *What comes to mind when you think about unclean spirits in church?*
3. *What is gossip?*
4. *When is gossip harmful?*
5. *How does talk sometimes interfere with your faith?*
6. *What do you do when you are tempted to speak unkindly about others?*

CHAPTER 23 + We Tried to Stop Him

1. *Why do you think Jesus did not establish more detailed requirements about the behavior of his followers?*
2. *What are some behaviors required by different Christian church traditions?*
3. *Why do you think the Catholic Church has made a number of requirements?*
4. *What can we do to increase cooperation across traditions?*
5. *Why are we so self-centered as religious groups?*
6. *What are modern examples of groups trying to stop others?*

CHAPTER 24 + What Is Truth?

1. *What does truth mean to you?*
2. *What truths have surprised you?*
3. *How has your understanding of faith changed in recent years?*
4. *In what areas of truth do you struggle?*
5. *What should the church do in searching for truth?*
6. *Why does it seem that searching for truth is never-ending?*

CHAPTER 25 + The Traditions of the Elders

1. *In what other ways does Jesus neglect of traditions appear in the gospels?*
2. *How do you think this neglect led to Jesus' death?*
3. *What kinds of traditions has the church adopted?*
4. *How important have these traditions become in our lives?*
5. *How can you imitate Jesus' approach to the traditions?*
6. *What are some traditions that are not so important?*
7. *What traditions are very important?*