**Reflections-08-27-17**

Witness, Holy Spirit, Identity

*“Who is that long-haired Jewish guy in the robe?”*

Matthew 16:13-20

1. Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Does it matter what other people, religions or cultures believe about Jesus? Are you open to listening to different thoughts about Jesus?
2. Pastor Glen in his sermon talked about “Who are you?” People get labeled, sometimes early in life. How is that helpful? How is that harmful?
3. Jesus got labeled as a prophet by other Jews. What impact do you think the outside community had on the disciple’s personal thoughts about Jesus? Do outsiders influence your faith walk? If yes, describe what that looks like.
4. Jesus pushes the disciples asking a second question, “But who do say that I am?” Do you think it’s important for us to describe Jesus with our own words, visions or concepts?
5. Jesus said to Peter, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.” Do you believe that God uses ordinary words through ordinary people to proclaim his message to us? Do you believe that God uses you to convey God’s agenda to another?

**Matthew 16:13-20**

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ 14And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ 15He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’16Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’17And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.