

“Who do you say that I am?”

The question, of course, is key to the Gospel. But I urge us not to be too quick to answer. It seems to me that as soon as we do, we risk closing off possibilities. Whatever answer we might give to the question could, and probably should, change at different times in our lives. As long as we realize that the question is never fully answered, we can remain open to new possibilities for our relationship with Jesus.

There is a story that one time when Francis of Assisi was deep in prayer, one of his brothers watched and listened intently for a long time, wanting to learn how to pray better himself. The only words he heard, over and over, were “Who are you, Lord, and who am I?”

Perhaps that is the right way to answer Jesus’ question.