

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 8, 2015

Luke 9:18-24

### **NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)**

<sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” <sup>19</sup> They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” <sup>20</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.”

<sup>21</sup> He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, <sup>22</sup> saying, “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.

### **NIV (New International Version)**

<sup>18</sup> *Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”*

<sup>19</sup> *They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”*

<sup>20</sup> *“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

*Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”*

<sup>21</sup> *Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”*

<sup>23</sup> *Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.*

**Connection Questions:**

1. The feeding of the five thousand story precedes our Luke scripture. Following our scripture is God's plan for Jesus' life and the Transfiguration story. How do these stories help shape Jesus' question to the disciples, ". . . who do you say that I am?"
2. Why was it important for Jesus to know if the disciples were loyal to his revolutionary lifestyle?
3. Do you think it was important that Jesus traveled with the disciples for 18 months before he asked his loyalty question? If so, why?
4. Disciples were to follow their rabbi so closely that the dust kicked up by his feet as he walked along the road or path would coat their cloak and hair. What does this statement tell us about the lifestyle Jesus calls us to live?
5. The choice we make in our response to Jesus is paramount in how we see our lives and the world. Discuss the choice we make and how it impacts our life?

6. If we choose not to answer, avoid, belittle or ignore Jesus' question, we are still making a response. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
  
7. Does it make a difference whether Jesus stands over the disciples or that he stands beside the disciples as he asks life's most important question? If so, how?
  
8. In Rev. Adkins' sermon he quotes Jessa Duggar, star on a TV show called 19 Kids and Counting, when she says, "God's judgment isn't something to be taken lightly! It should scare you! Man's judgment is a 1,000 times lighter . . . usually just a voicing of disapproval. But when unbelieving, sinful men die and stand before God, he justly condemns them to hell." Discuss whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
  
9. Augustine, one of our church fathers says, "our heart is restless until it rests in thee." Do you agree with this famous quote? If so, why?
  
10. Discuss what you think the difference is between seeing Jesus' revolutionary lifestyle as a journey or as a destination.