

Last week, we listened to Matthew's account of Jesus question to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" and Peter's inspired response, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus had initially asked them what people thought, what people were saying, before he put the question to his own followers. As though we were part of that group, Sister Pat asked us to ponder who Jesus is for us.

Think for a moment what your response might have been, then fast forward to the gospel section following which we will hear today. Even though Peter's answer was on target, it was clear that he didn't have the whole picture. He wanted Jesus to be what he wanted him to be, not someone who would be exposed to persecution and death. And Jesus told him he had got it all wrong.

Is it possible, when we think about who Jesus is for us, we might be getting it all wrong as well? Might there be times when we need some help? In Paul's Letter to the Romans today, he has some advice for us as well: ... "be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God..." Jeremiah in the first reading was caught off base when he assented to the mission God had given him, "You duped me, Lord..." It took him a while to get it, but he did respond.

At the beginning of today's reading, there was a third part to the prediction which Jesus shared with his disciples, and it may help us to be alert to it: "...and on the third day (the Son of Man will) be raised.." Taken altogether, it might be worth buying into the whole picture. Who is Jesus for us? As we continue to ponder the answer, - today and into the future, - may we, little by little, come to experience that change that Paul urges, and the gift which will result; after all, it is God's dream for us.