

Jesus is looking for his disciples to use their loaves when it comes to understanding who he is. He asks a simple question.

Who do you think I am?

The disciples eventually answer correctly

You are the Messiah.

If we just had these few pages of Matthew's writings, we might think this is actually the end of his gospel.

Who do you yourselves actually say or believe I am? Jesus asks his class. The disciples are firmly in the examination hall.

It's a question everyone down through history since that time has answered

Either directly or by ignoring it

Jesus makes his question personal. You've been with me all this time, consider what your ears have heard, and your eyes have seen.

Now who do you think I am?

Peter speaks for all of us when he says you are the Messiah.

What a time that would be for Matthew to bring down the curtain!

But this turns out to be more like the end of the act rather than the end of the story.

You can imagine a tableaux and the curtain falls.

After ice cream and chat you can imagine

The curtain would rise on exactly the same scene, but Two minutes may have passed.

Peter had just declared that he had it all sorted and we the reader agree,

But Matthew tells us that Jesus introduces a twist to the story that will take our breath away. What a roller coaster ride of a gospel he is writing. We are back wondering what this is all about.

Forget what you thought a Messiah was, Jesus says. You might have thought you had it all sorted, but no we have more things to do.

We are off to Jerusalem where I, Jesus, will be killed by the authorities and raised by God. Suddenly, the disciples' world falls apart. Jesus the Messiah to die. No way says Peter. That just can't happen.

Jesus dangles a gripping event, a death and a rebirth,
Follow me to Jerusalem and I will redefine all your
ideas of what a Messiah is. There is hope, but how
does it all work out? Follow me and as you think about
it you will start down the road to understanding

Let us pray.

Almighty God

Your son Calls us to follow him

To acknowledge just who he is

Your son

Our messiah.

Help us to deepen our relationship with Jesus

So that we may know more of your way of living

As we serve you in our community faithfully day by day

And now rest quietly in the Peace your loving god
showers on you.

Sit calmly

Quietly

Let you God do his work,

Let him be your god.

Let him shower you in the special peace that only he
can give,

And now may the blessing of God almighty, Father
Son and Holy Spirit be with you for evermore.

Amen.