

Advent, Day 11
Read Luke 4:14-29

Wednesday, December 12

“Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” Luke 4:22

WHO IS THIS?

The crowd always seemed to be asking something like that?

“Who is this that speaks with such authority?”

“Who is this who forgives sins?”

“Who is this who pays such little attention to the Sabbath laws?”

“Who is this? Who does he think he is, anyway?”

It’s a question we still ask. And with good reason. Who is this whose words seem to go to the very center of my soul and who seems to know me better than I know myself?

Who is this who seems to understand the separation that I feel in my life and who seems to know what it is that I need to heal those hurts?

Who is this who is able to reach into my heaped-up heart and see something in me that others simply do not see, and draws from me a goodness that I did not even know was there?

Many times when people asked those questions around Jesus, the answer came back:

It’s nobody important.

It’s just some guy from Nazareth. And you know what they say about Nazareth – can anything of worth come out of there?

It’s just Joseph’s kid. We’ve known him since he was just a brat running around the streets of Nazareth or getting in the way in his father’s shop. Why should we pay attention to anything he has to say?

We can dismiss him. Many have.

Many have ignored what he has revealed to them about their lives and decided that it really did mean enough for them to make a change.

Many who have gone back to their old, painful ways of dealing with life and each other.

Many who have decided that he asks too much, and even though their lives are less than satisfying, at least what they already know is comfortable and easy.

This season is a time when Jesus seeks to talk to us. He’s got an amazing story of good news that is available to everyone. News about the love and grace of God and the difference it can make in the lives of those who are ready to listen.

Maybe the someone to whom Jesus is talking this year is you.

Maybe you need to hear what Jesus has to say.

Who is this?

It’s Jesus. It’s the one who has come to save us from ourselves and give us to each other. It’s the one who loves us, even when we are not ready to be loved.

Are you ready to listen?