

The Life of Christ
Summer Book Study

Week Nine Discussion Questions

1. Sheen notes that Jesus emphasized an intimate and paternal attitude toward men. How does viewing God as Father change the way we approach personal prayer and daily trials?

2. Sheen suggests that the agony in Gethsemane may have caused Jesus more intense suffering than the physical pain of the crucifixion itself. Why does mental and spiritual anguish outweigh physical pain in this context?

3. Sheen famously states, "*Anti-Christ is nothing else but the full unhindered growth of self-will.*" How does this definition challenge modern views on freedom and personal autonomy?

4. Have you ever experienced a time when a "friendly" gesture or interaction turned out to be hurtful or deceitful? How did you respond compared to Christ's composure?

5. How can you guard your own conscience against the incremental sliding into self-will or dishonesty that mirrors the path of Judas?
6. When pressed by the high priest, Jesus points forward to the Second Coming ("You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power"). How should this reminder of ultimate accountability shape how we bear witness to Christ when facing our own trials or social pressure?
7. When have you experienced a "crowing rooster" moment—an unexpected wake-up call that made you realize you had compromised your faith or values?
8. How does looking at Peter's restoration by the Sea of Galilee encourage you to bring your own past failures to the Sacrament of Reconciliation or to prayer?
9. According to the text, in what way is every individual sin an active participant in the Crucifixion?

10. In what ways does Pilate's famous question, "*What is truth?*" reflect modern cultural attitudes toward moral relativism?
11. In what ways does Sheen present Judas not as a monster born evil, but as someone whose small compromises slowly led to spiritual ruin?
12. How can we recognize the early "steps of Judas" (small rationalizations or attachments) in our own daily lives?