

The Life of Christ
Summer Book Study

Week Seven Discussion Questions

- 1) Why are miracles alone insufficient to cure unbelief? How does Sheen argue that the will can refuse to accept what the intellect knows to be true?

- 2) Does your personal understanding of sin change when you view it as the "crucifixion of Divine Goodness in the flesh"?

- 3) Sheen writes, *"The possession of a soul means the undisturbed mastery of oneself, which is the secret of inner peace... Only when the soul is possessed can anything else be enjoyed."* How do we "possess our souls" in an era filled with modern distractions, anxiety, and digital noise?

- 4) Reflect on St. Augustine's quote regarding the centurion: "*Counting himself unworthy that Christ should enter into his doors, he was counted worthy that Christ should enter into his heart.*" How does true humility open the door for grace?
- 5) Discuss the interaction between the Greeks coming to see Jesus and His declaration about the grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying. What does this mean for our own intellects and personal sacrifices?
- 6) Sheen's writings often challenge readers to avoid looking for a "watered-down" Christianity. How does Jesus "restore moral indignation" in chapter 29, and why does Sheen believe we must hate evil with a passionate intensity to fully appreciate goodness?
- 7) Jesus laments, "How often would I have gathered your children together... and you were not willing!" Why does God, in His omnipotence, allow human beings the free will to reject His protection? What does this mean for our own spiritual lives?

- 8) Jesus intentionally delayed going to Bethany despite being told Lazarus was ill. Sheen writes: "*God's delays are mysterious; sorrow is sometimes prolonged for the same reason for which it was sent.*" How does this passage challenge the modern desire for immediate relief? What purposes might God's "delays" serve in spiritual growth?
- 9) How does Mary's act of breaking the alabaster jar and pouring out the costly ointment symbolize the giving of oneself to God?
- 10) How does a healthy awareness of our own mortality, as Sheen outlines, reframe the way we live our daily lives?
- 11) Just as the disciples were willing to simply reply, "*The Lord hath need of it,*" when asked about the donkey, are you readily prepared to surrender what is yours when God calls? What holds us back from giving up control so easily?