



Living Letters

Thoughts for Christian Living

Ryan Connor, MA, Minister
Spring Valley Church of Christ

This coming Sunday many of you will watch the Patriots and the Eagles fight it out in Super Bowl XXXIX. Even people who are not serious fans and never watch Pro football during the regular season will tune in to see the game. I'll admit, I fall into this category of Super Bowl viewers.

We tune in because it's a match of strength, endurance and wits between the best of the best—with everything on the line. There is a part of me that loves to see the underdog win by out-hustling or out-smarting the big dog. I suppose, it's the challenge that gets me interested.

There is another challenge I would like you to consider. The challenge is Jesus. That's right, Jesus. I know, you're thinking, "Jesus is a good guy, a friend, a Savior. How can He be a challenge?" I'm glad you asked.

The challenge of Jesus is summed up best by a question He asked of His disciples. After inquiring of them concerning what others were saying about Him, Jesus pointed a similar question at His disciples. He asked, "But who do you say that I am" (Matthew 16:15)? Without hesitation, Peter answered the Lord's challenge: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Others were willing to accept Jesus as a prophet, but Peter knew that Jesus was that and much more.

In another passage, Jesus questioned the Pharisees, a religious sect of the Jews. He asked, "What do you think about the Christ" (Matthew 22:42)? Unfortunately, many of the Pharisees rejected the challenge of Jesus during His earthly ministry.

Today, we find that the world is still challenged by Jesus of Nazareth. What do you think about Him? Who do you think He is?

Every person on the planet faces this challenge alone, and no one is exempt. Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" (Matthew 12:30). Perhaps, you are indifferent to Jesus—you just don't care one way or the other—especially, when the Super Bowl is on. Well, you can't get out of it that easily. You've been challenged. Now, either you take the challenge and make a decision or not—but if you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice. Choose Jesus, today!

Learn more @ www.livingletters.org, or visit The Spring Valley Church of Christ, 2909 Route 75, Huntington, WV.