

April 7th, 2019
You Are the Christ
Mark 8:27-9:1

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Mar 31	1 Samuel 15-17	April 4	1 Samuel 28-31
April 1	1 Samuel 18-20	April 5	2 Samuel 1-3
April 2	1 Samuel 21-24	April 6	2 Samuel 4-7
April 3	1 Samuel 25-27	April 7	2 Samuel 8-12

Lesson Introduction: *Our passage this week signals a shift in the Gospel of Mark. Throughout our study, including our passage last week, we have seen Jesus' disciples struggle to grasp the significance of Who Jesus is. They have continually lacked understanding as Jesus has established His ministry on Earth. In our chapter today, all of that changes. It is in this passage that Peter recognizes Jesus as the Christ, and it is in this passage that Jesus begins to speak explicitly about His imminent death. As we study this week, we will see Jesus revealed as King, the unexpected nature of His kingship, and cost of following this King.*

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Jesus is the Christ (V. 27-30)**
- **Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for many (V. 31-33)**
- **True Christian discipleship requires dying to self (V. 34-38)**

Mark 8:27-38 English Standard Version

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting

your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

Discussion Section 1: The Confession (V. 27-30)

-What does it mean that Jesus is "**the Christ**"?

-According to **Matthew 16:17**, how did Peter come to understand that Jesus was the Christ?

-Why did Jesus tell charge them not to tell anyone about this revelation?

Note: *These verses signal a pivotal moment in this Gospel. There was much confusion about who Jesus was from many. The Pharisees had their opinions, and so did the common folk. Some thought that He was Elijah or John the Baptist reincarnate. The people were baffled by Jesus. Even last week, we saw that His own disciples were still unclear what His ministry was all about. So, it is a pretty shocking thing for Peter to make this accurate profession of who Jesus was (and is)! But without hesitation, Peter proclaims, "**You are the Christ.**" and Peter was right! We will discuss more in the next section about Peter's misconceptions about what that meant, but regardless of that, he was not wrong. The word "Christos" means, "anointed one." In Jewish culture, it had come to be understood as, "The Anointed One," meaning, the Messiah, Savior of the people.*

*In Matthew's Gospel, we learn an important detail about Jesus' response to Peter's profession that is not recorded in Mark. Jesus replied to him, "**flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven**"*

(Matthew 16:17). This is an amazing statement about the nature of spiritual understanding. Just a few verses earlier, we see a confused bunch of disciples, now suddenly, Peter is making the confession that Jesus is indeed the Messiah! Where did this come from? Jesus said it was revealed to Him by God. Peter's experience in coming to an understanding about who Jesus was is exactly our experience when we come to Christ. It is not until God graciously reveals Himself that we are able to confess that Jesus is Lord (**John 1:12-13, 2 Corinthians 4:6**). May this passage serve as a reminder to us of the incredible grace of God in our lives, to open our eyes, and give us understanding of Him that we once did not have.

Discussion Section 2: An Unexpected King (V. 31-33)

-Why did Jesus use the title "**Son of Man**" for Himself, immediately after being recognized as the Messiah, Son of God?

-What does Jesus reveal His mission as Messiah to be in these verses?

-Why was Peter so opposed to Jesus' clearly stated plan to die?

Note: Right after Jesus is revealed to be the Messiah, He refers to Himself as "**the Son of Man**," and begins talking about the necessity of His death and resurrection to fulfill His purpose. The term "**Son of Man**" was frequently used by Jesus to emphasize His humanity and humility. Amazingly, after Jesus being heralded as the Son of God (**Matthew 16**), Jesus begins to point to the fact that He is a servant and that He has come to Suffer.

Jesus was quickly letting His disciples know that, while He was the Messiah, He was not what they were expecting. Jesus states that He "**must**" suffer and be killed. This was part of the plan! For Peter and the other disciples, this had to be shocking. They had been awaiting the Messiah, but their expectation was a conquering king who would drive out the Roman empire and establish His reign in Jerusalem. Peter was clearly troubled by this plan Jesus was speaking of, and although he had just been used as God's mouthpiece minutes before, he began to speak on behalf of Satan, in opposition of Jesus' words.

Jesus quickly and harshly rebuked Peter. Peter's mind was on the things of this world, rather than God's good plan, and thus the Lord chastised him. Jesus was

pointing His disciples to an understanding of who He is, and why He came to earth. If He did not die, then there would be no salvation for the Jews, or indeed, for the world. The shedding of His blood was necessary for the forgiveness of sins (**Hebrews 9:22**). Jesus would indeed be a conquering King, but He would do it through sacrificial servanthood to the point of death. And not only would He die, but He would also call all who follow Him to die with Him.

Discussion Section 3: A Call to Die (V. 34-Ch. 9:1)

-What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross?

-How do we sometimes try to save our lives?

-Why does Jesus say that the one who loses his life for His sake... "**and the gospel's**" will save it.

-What does Jesus mean in verse 1 of chapter 9?

Note: After revealing that He had come to die, Jesus then makes a huge statement: "**If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**" Not only must He die... but so must anyone who would follow Him! This a radical statement, and one that must be understood by all who come to Jesus for salvation.

Here, Jesus is teaching us that to come to Him is a complete surrender of self, and a complete allegiance to Him. Timothy Keller explains that losing yourself for the sake of Christ **and the gospel** is a complete recognition of all that Christ has done for us, and a complete devotion to His kingdom. We do not simply make a profession that we unite our lives with God. We look to the life of Jesus and follow His example. We die to self.

As we close out this lesson, consider what it looks like to day in and day out, lay down our lives and come after Jesus. It means putting sin to death by the Spirit each day. It means sacrificing our resources for the sake of the gospel. It means coming under the Lordship of Christ, realizing that His ways are better than our ways. Because Jesus is King, we die to ourselves. Amazingly, this death brings life! This death leads to resurrection. We sacrifice a life of enslaving to sin for an abundant life of freedom in Christ! May we consider this each day what it looks like to take up our crosses and follow Him into everlasting life.