

Who Do You Say He Is?

[Mar 8:27-33 ESV] 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."

I. Intro

- A. Understanding God is a progression over time and revelation.
- B. We saw last week how God brought healing in phases and through a progressive illumination of His work.
- C. This week we see Peter in the middle of this truth.

II. Text

A. Verses 27-28

- 1. This is north of their home base in what would have been a place to be alone with His disciples
- 2. He is going to use this far north location of Israel to give the challenge to His disciples about His death, resurrection, and the church.

B. Verse 29

- 1. Peter answered rightly, He believed Jesus to be the messiah.
- 2. Seems to be a clear understanding of who Jesus is, will it last?

C. Verse 30

- 1. The Messianic Secret
- 2. Instances where Jesus told people not to share:
 - a) Mark 1:44: After healing a leper
 - b) Mark 5:43: After raising Jairus's daughter
 - c) Mark 7:36: After healing the deaf and mute man
 - d) Mark 8:26: After healing the blind man at Bethsaida (telling him not to go into the village)
 - e) Mark 8:30: After Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ
- 3. The Last time will be in Mark 9:9
 - a) We are reaching the end of the preparation phase for the disciples
 - b) After the transfiguration it'll be to boldly proclaim

D. Verse 31: Teaching

- 1. Son of Man: God who became flesh
- 2. Must suffer and be rejected: It was "MUST" suffer, it was the only way for God to accomplish the rescue and not contradict His own standard of righteousness.
- 3. By the elders, chief priests, and the scribes: The group providing wisdom, leadership, and keepers of the law
- 4. And be killed
- 5. And rise again on the third day

E. Verse 32

- 1. He spoke plainly...directly...no parables
- 2. And Peter couldn't handle the news, so He took Him aside and rebuked Jesus

F. Verse 33

- 1. Jesus then gives a sharp rebuke to Peter
- 2. Get behind me satan! OUCH
- 3. You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but man

4. The carnal will never fully grasp the Spiritual, that's why it takes faith.

III. Point

A. Who do people say He is?

1. Apologetics 101
2. Today, some say:
 - a) He was a great teacher
 - b) He was an advocate for the outcast, marginalized, and the abused
 - c) He was a prophet
 - d) He was a great healer
3. Is this true?
 - a) He is a great teacher, but much more
 - b) He is an advocate for the outcast, marginalized, and the abused...but he is also an advocate for the popular, connected, and one who has done wrong
 - c) He is a great healer, and yet there is so much more.
4. Jesus is messiah, Lord of All, the Christ:
 - a) He came to rescue the oppressed, and the oppressor
 - b) He came to heal the helpless, and those who are not yet aware of their helpless state
 - c) He came to teach and to be an example, and then submit Himself to sacrifice for our sins
5. People have been wrestling with this for generations, trying to force Jesus into their understanding.
6. C.S. Lewis
 - a) Mere Christianity: 1952:
 - b) "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."
7. Watchman Nee
 - a) The Normal Christian Life: 1936:
 - b) First, if he claims to be God and yet in fact is not, he has to be a madman or a lunatic. Second, if he is neither God nor a lunatic, he has to be a liar, deceiving others by his lie. Third, if he is neither of these, he must be God. You can only choose one of the three possibilities.
 - c) If you do not believe that he is God, you have to consider him a madman. If you cannot take him for either of the two, you have to take him for a liar. There is no need for us to prove if Jesus of Nazareth is God or not. All we have to do is find out if He is a lunatic or a liar. If He is neither, He must be the Son of God.
8. LIAR, LUNATIC, or LORD: Because Jesus explicitly claimed to be God, He must have been a Liar (deliberately deceiving others), a Lunatic (genuinely and delusionally believing He was God), or the Lord (truly the Son of God).

B. He is the Christ.

1. Peter responded to Jesus by acknowledging Him to be the Christ
2. Christ:
 - a) The Greek Root: The word comes from the Greek Christos, meaning "anointed".
 - b) The Hebrew Equivalent: It translates to the Hebrew word Messiah (Mashiach).

- c) Ancient Symbolism: In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and prophets were anointed with oil to show they were chosen by God
- 3. Christ is a word of recognition to His divinity, and His chosen purpose.
- 4. By saying "You are the Christ", Peter is saying what is true and what he believes, yet doesn't fully understand.
- 5. When Peter pulls Jesus aside to rebuke Him, this demonstrates a limited understanding.
- 6. You would never be allowed to pull an earthly king aside and rebuke Him, how much more inappropriate would it be to pull the king of kings aside???
- a) Yet Peter does just that, due to a lack of complete understanding just yet.
- b) We also do this, but don't do it so directly.
 - (1) We question what God is doing
 - (2) We attempt to manipulate God with our actions and view that our faith walk is transactional...
 - (a) If you do this for me, you do this for me
 - (b) If I serve in this ministry or give this money, you will do what I need you to do
 - (c) If I don't do this bad thing that I shouldn't be doing, you will then work things out the way I want you to.

C. Set Your Mind

- 1. The ultimate confrontation between Jesus and Peter is not in the words that bring shock, "Get behind me Satan."
- 2. The ultimate confrontation is in the corrective words about mindset.
- 3. Peter is being challenged to look past the physical and allow truth to demonstrate the spiritual.
- 4. There is a spiritual battle that Christ accomplished through His death, and a Spiritual victory through His resurrection.
- 5. When He said "It is finished," it was completed, and today we are living in that completed, but ongoing work.
- 6. We should believe God and trust His plan.
- 7. When our carnal, physical sensibilities are challenged, we should STILL TRUST HIS PLAN!
- 8. The spiritual work of Christ is continuing to impact the physical world we think we understand.
- 9. We do not have to understand it all, but we do need to trust Him through it all.
- 10. Are you challenged in your trust of Christ?
 - a) Do you trust Him with your finances?
 - b) Do you trust him with your job?
 - c) Do you trust him with your family?
 - d) Do you trust him with your relationships?
- 11. If you do...
 - a) You will trust him with your finances so much that you give accordingly.
 - b) You will trust him with your job and serve in it as you are serving the Lord.
 - c) You will trust him with your family and guide them in truth and release control to Him.
 - d) You will trust him in your relationship to a point that you see relationships as opportunities to share faith with the lost and the saved.
- 12. Set your mind on Him, release control, follow Him faithfully.

IV. Close