

## Daily Bible Study

### *“Misconceptions Concerning Messiah”*

*Mark 8:27-33*

*October 17 - 23, 2010*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** – This week we come to what is basically the ½ way point of the Gospel of Mark and look at a very familiar and very important text of Scripture that is recorded in all the synoptic Gospels. We of course are looking at this teaching from our text in **Mark 8:27-33**. The lesson is entitled “*Misconceptions Concerning Messiah*” for in the text we find out that the person of Jesus as “*The Christ*” is confessed by the disciples but they fail to grasp the mission and work of the Messiah sent from God. Peter goes even further in the text to *rebuke* Jesus concerning the information Jesus gave them because of his misunderstanding. In our text, Jesus confirms to these men that He is in fact, The Messiah, but He will be the Suffering Servant Messiah (**Isaiah 53**). This message was so shocking to these devout Jewish men that they (represented by Peter) *rebuked* Jesus for a “failed interpretation of the Prophetic Word of God” if you will. Jesus’ sharp rebuke to Peter shows that He understood Satan to be behind these words from Peter. Christ in this passage faces a temptation to personally doubt His calling and mission as The Suffering Servant. Being the perfect, sinless, holy Savior He is, Jesus rejects this temptation and firmly sets His sights on the fulfillment of the mission before Him. The rest of Mark’s gospel flows out from this understanding as we begin to close in on the explanation of the fulfillment of Christ’s work for us as helpless sinners. Read our text: **Mark 8:27-33** “*Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, “Who do men say that I am?” So they answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.” Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father God, Help me hear You speak from Your Word this week. Give me understanding not just of Who You are Jesus but What it is You actually did for me a sinner.*

**TUESDAY** – **Mark 8:27** “*Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi;*

and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, “Who do men say that I am?” To set the stage for Jesus’ teaching, and get the impact of what He is saying, I believe it is helpful to do a little geography first. The text tells us that *Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi... Caesarea Philippi* is about 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee at the base of Mt. Hermon. Apparently known as Baal Hermon and Baal Gad in the Old Testament period, this site later was named Pnias after the Greek god Pan who was worshiped here. It is the location of one of the largest springs of water that feeds the Jordan River which made this area very fertile and attractive for many things, including false religious worship. The water spring comes from a large cave which became the center of pagan worship. Beginning in the 3rd century B.C., sacrifices were cast into the cave as offerings to the Greek god Pan. Pan, the half-man half-goat god of fright (thus “panic”), is often depicted playing the flute. This city known as Pnias has been corrupted in the Arabic language to its modern name of Banias. Many temples were built at this city in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. There is no record of Jesus entering the city, but the great confession and the transfiguration both occurred in the vicinity of the city (**Matthew 16:13**), then known as Caesarea Philippi (bibleplaces.com). With that background in mind, the impact of the “confession” of Peter can be appreciated even more. As the Scottish Theologian Barclay puts it, “There, of all places, as it were, against the background of all religions and all history, Peter discovered that a wandering teacher from Nazareth, who was heading for a cross, was the Son of God.” Continuing, he comments further, “There is hardly anything in all the gospel story which shows the sheer force of the personality of Jesus as does this incident”. Barclay’s comments are not always biblically accurate, some of his teaching is even heretical (universalism among other things) and I do not know exactly what he is trying to get at by referring to Jesus’ “personality” but this much is true; Jesus, in the midst of area known for ancient Baal and modern false worship, draws the entire matter of men’s opinions and worship practices to One central person (Himself) and plan (the Gospel). He, “The Son of God” challenges ALL mankind by asking, “Who do men say that I am?” Lastly, as we’ll see later, it was/is not Jesus’ “personality” that convinced Peter or any other believer to trust Jesus by faith, it was/is the work of God himself (**Matthew 16:17, Ephesians 2:8**).

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, protect me from false views of You and keep me safe by study and comprehension of Your Word of Truth. Jesus, there has never been any one like You. Thanks for Your perfect life, substitutionary death, and powerful resurrection for a former pagan like me.*

**WEDNESDAY** – **Mark 8:28-30** “So they answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.” Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. We find out that there were a lot of opinions as to “Who Jesus was” and there remains a lot of opinion and speculation today. After Jesus asks that question of what others say concerning

who He is, He now brings it home and pin pointedly asks His men, “*But who do you say that I am?*” The word you is an emphatic personal pronoun in the Greek text which places emphasis on the people addresses; here the disciples in particular. You and I must answer this question for ourselves as well. It doesn’t matter for your eternal destiny what others think and believe about Jesus. It does matter what you think and believe. There were some good names mentioned by the people (*John the Baptist, Elijah*), some of the Bible’s greatest men, but great men don’t and can’t save you, only The Man Christ (appointed one, Messiah) Jesus (**Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5**). We know from much of Sacred Scriptures record of Jesus ministry among His disciples that Peter answers and speaks for the others quite often. This would probably be the best and most accurate way to see this story as well. God had given genuine faith to all the disciples except Judas and Peter’s answer of “*You are the Christ*” applies and reflects the understanding of all who are truly born again children of God. Matthew records Jesus specifically telling Peter that he came to this understanding by Divine revelation: He said, “*...flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven*” (**Matthew 16:17**). Jesus finishes by *strictly warning* the disciples to *tell no one about Him*. As we have just seen, it requires Divine revelation for an individual to come to eternal life, to know The Father, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Therefore, Jesus was telling the disciples they were first to really understand what being The Messiah really meant before they were to in earnest proclaim it. They had much to learn from Jesus concerning Messiah, as we will see tomorrow.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for loving me, giving me faith to believe the Gospel and that Jesus alone lived a life that totally obeyed and pleased You and He did it for me. Praise You!*

**THURSDAY– Mark 8:31** “*And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*” The declaration of Peter was right on and Jesus then warned them not to tell anyone. That seems a bit strange at first until we realize the eagerness of the Jewish people to get out from under the rule of Rome. They would already have forcibly made Jesus King if they could and proclaiming that Jesus was in fact the Messiah would fuel that fire. Jesus now teaches the disciples what it really means to be The Messiah. This is the message that must be believed and preached BUT it is not the message people want to embrace and furthermore, they CAN’T embrace it except by God given faith. Jesus then simply summarizes and drops some of the particulars of the Gospel message on them. This sounds very similar to what the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that Jesus told Him as well; something Paul said was of *first importance* (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4** “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures*”). Jesus is explaining to these men that the thoughts of people that He had come to set up an earthly Kingdom were not true; He had in fact come to

establish His Kingdom and He would bring people into it; a spiritual kingdom that will last forever. We do not have time to cover all the Messianic ideas that were false but suffice to say, the Jewish people of Jesus day and people today as well, have some false notions of what Jesus has come to do and how He will do it. What is interesting is that Jesus stresses what we need to stress; not first and foremost His eschatology but The Gospel; His death, burial, and resurrection for sinners according to the Scriptures. May we be about the business of loving, teaching, and preaching it.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, thanks for giving us such a simple but profound message to hear, believe, & proclaim. Thank You that its the best news we could ever hope for; that You Jesus, were sent, suffered, died, & then rose victorious over sin & death and have made peace with God for us.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY** – **Mark 8:32 - 33** “*He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”* The text tells us Jesus *spoke this word openly*, that is to say He was not speaking in parables or using illustrations but rather just stating in simple clear words what He was about to do. The shock these men must have had can almost be felt by us as readers. It is so against their concept of the conquering Messiah that we find Peter *took Him aside and began to rebuke Him*. Can I respectfully say, umm, Peter, not smart. In the disciples mind no way was The Messiah going to be executed and in that way achieve victory for God’s people, just no way. In fact this is exactly the way God planned it. Did Peter forget **Isaiah 53**? Sadly, the Jewish people still misinterpret it today. Didn’t John the Baptist make it clear that Jesus was the sacrificial “*Lamb of God*” who would “*take away the sin of the world*” (both Jew and Gentile sin praise God). These men all knew the lambs were slaughtered. Jesus doesn’t wait to respond. He drops a decisive, heavy hammer blow to Peter as He says, “*Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.*” That’s a bombshell. Jesus is being faced here with temptation from the enemy and He gives us an example of how to deal with sin & temptation drastically and with deadly force; such as “*cutting off the hand that offends*” (**Mark 9:43**). He quickly, forcefully puts this satanic temptation behind Him telling Peter, you need God’s point of view and not mans (**Colossians 3:2**).

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, help me always place my thoughts under Scripture (2 Cor. 10:5).*