

I. Text Outline Mark 8:27-38

- I. ²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.
- A. On the way he asked them,
1. “Who do people say I am?”
 2. ²⁸ They replied,
 - a) “Some say John the Baptist;
 - b) others say Elijah;
 - c) and still others, one of the prophets.”
- B. ²⁹ “But
1. what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
 2. Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”
- C. ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.
- II. ³¹ He then began to
- A. teach them that the Son of Man must
1. suffer many things
 2. and be rejected by
 - a) the elders,
 - b) the chief priests
 - c) and the teachers of the law,
 3. and that he must
 - a) be killed
 - b) and after three days rise again.
 4. ³² He spoke plainly about this,
- B. and Peter
1. took him aside
 2. and began to rebuke him.
- C. ³³ But
1. when Jesus
 - a) turned
 - b) and looked at his disciples,
 2. he rebuked Peter.
 - a) “Get behind me, Satan!” he said.
 - b) “You do not have in mind the concerns of God,
 - c) but merely human concerns.”
- III. ³⁴ Then
- A. he called the crowd to him along with his disciples
- B. and said:
1. “Whoever wants to be my disciple
 - a) must deny themselves
 - b) and take up their cross
 - c) and follow me.
 2. ³⁵ For
 - a) whoever

- (1) wants to save their life will lose it,
- (2) but whoever loses their life
 - (a) for me
 - (b) and for the gospel will save it.
- b) ³⁶What good is it
 - (1) for someone to
 - (a) gain the whole world,
 - (b) yet forfeit their soul?
 - (2) ³⁷Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
- 3. ³⁸If anyone is ashamed
 - a) of me
 - b) and my words in this
 - (1) adulterous
 - (2) and sinful generation,
 - c) the Son of Man will be ashamed of them
 - (1) when he comes in his Father's glory
 - (2) with the holy angels."

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Conceptual Outline

Theme: Jesus, the suffering Messiah, invites us to count the cost and benefits of being His disciples.

- I. **Who is Jesus? Christ**
 - A. **The people's understanding**
 - 1. **John the Baptist**
 - 2. **Elijah**
 - 3. **a prophet**
 - B. **Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah**
 - C. **Jesus instruction to keep secret**
- II. **What does He come to do? A suffering Christ**
 - A. **Suffering**
 - 1. **suffer many things,**
 - 2. **rejection by leaders**
 - 3. **must be killed & resurrected**
 - B. **Rebuke by Peter**
 - C. **Jesus rebuke Peter**
 - 1. **Get behind me, Satan!**
 - 2. **lacking concerns of God**
 - 3. **focus on human concerns**
- III. **What does He want from His disciples? A Challenge to Discipleship**
 - A. **Invitation to the crowd & the disciples**
 - B. **cost of discipleship**
 - 1. **cost**
 - a) *self-denial*
 - b) *take up the cross*
 - c) *follow Him*
 - 2. **Reason**
 - a) *Paradox*
 - (1) hold on to life will lose it
 - (2) lose life for Christ & the gospel will save it
 - b) *Cost & benefits*
 - (1) gain the world & lose their soul
 - (2) what is worth exchanging for their soul
 - 3. **Consequences of rejecting Christ**
 - a) *ashamed of Christ & His words in this world*
 - b) *Christ will reject him in His return*

Questions:

1. What have you been working hard to gain in the last 5 years? Have you received it? What have you lost in the process of gaining it?

Alternative: Having studied about Jesus so far, what would you conclude about Him? Whom would you compare Jesus with? Who do you think Jesus is?

Read Mark 8:27-38

This passage took place towards the last 1/3 of Jesus' ministry. Prior to this, He has gained great popularity because of His powerful teaching and all the miracles He performed. This passage marks a turning point in His ministry.

He was around near Caesarea Philippi which is a Roman City approximately 25 ml NE of Galilee. This Non-Jewish city is filled with many temples of Baal & other ancient gods.

Read Vs. 27-30

2. In vs. 27-30 Jesus asked His disciples 2 questions. What are they? What was their answer to the 1st question? In what ways is Jesus like these prophets? Why are these answers insufficient and, therefore, incorrect?
3. What do you suppose prompted Jesus to ask the 2nd question? Peter answered by proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah. What does Messiah mean? What is Peter proclaiming Him to be? (see Matt 16:16) Why did Jesus warn them not to tell anyone? What might happen if they were to pronounce Jesus as Christ at that moment?
4. If Jesus were to ask you, "Who do you say I am?" What would be your answer? When you first met Jesus, what kind of Christ did you imagine Him to be?

Read vs. 31-33

5. As soon as He was recognized as Christ, He began to teach them what kind of Messiah He was. What 4 things did He say "must" happen? Why are these things "must"?
6. How did Peter react to His teaching? Why was Peter so disturbed by this teaching? What's so wrong with Peter that Jesus had to rebuke him?
7. v. 33 described a couple of Jesus' action before rebuking Peter. What were they? What do you think went through Jesus' mind before He rebuked Peter? Why is correcting Peter so important? What did Jesus say was Peter's problem? What were Peter's concerns? What were God's concerns?

Read vs. 34-38

After dealing with the leader individually, Jesus turned to all the disciples and the crowd to tell them what He expected of them.

8. What are the three things one "must" do to be His disciple? What does each of them mean? In behavioral terms, what does each of them look like in contemporary society and in your life?

9. Why did Jesus say these requirements are musts? Why would trying to save one's own life or gaining the world leads to losing life/soul/self (Lk 9:25)? Is it a guarantee that these people would gain the world? Have you experienced something similar or seen in others?
10. How would losing one's life for Christ & the gospel save it? Is this a guarantee? Have you experience this or seen it in others?
11. Why or when would a disciple be ashamed of Christ & His Words? Why did Jesus emphasize the condition of our generation in v. 38? What would happen if a disciple is ashamed of Christ & His words? What is the contrasting condition at that time? Why is this view of the future important to us as we take up our cross?
12. Is there a middle ground in all this so to have the best of both worlds? Why is attempting to live in the best of both worlds not possible and dangerous?
13. Having heard these hard sayings of Jesus, what would you say to Jesus if He asks you "will you follow me?" What will you need to deny in yourself? Please write your decision as a prayer to the Lord & keep this prayer in a prominent place as a daily reminder.

Questions & Potential Answers:

1. What have you been working hard to gain in the last 5 years? Have you received it? What have you lost in the process of gaining it?

Alternative: Having studied about Jesus so far, what would you conclude about Him? Whom would you compare Jesus with? Who do you think Jesus is?

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Vs. 27-30

2. In vs. 27-30 Jesus asked His disciples 2 questions. What are they? What was their answer to the 1st question? In what ways is Jesus like these prophets? Why are these answers insufficient and, therefore, incorrect?
 - "Who do people say I am?" & "Who do you say I am?"
 - John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets
 - Teaches about God, performs miracles, faithful servants of God, popular great historic figures of Israel
 - Prophets prophesized about Jesus but Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies. Prophets are His servants. He's the Master they served. Prophets had no power of their own. Jesus is the omnipotent Son of God. Prophets were created. He's the Creator. Saying that Jesus is one of the prophets, a great man, a great teacher fall short & reduces Him to a mere human. Jesus is both God and Man.
3. What do you suppose prompted Jesus to ask the 2nd question? Peter answered by proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah. What does Messiah mean? What is Peter proclaiming Him to be? (see Matt 16:16) Why did Jesus warn them not to tell anyone? What might happen if they were to pronounce Jesus as Christ at that moment?
 - This is the most crucial question to ask if these are the people Jesus would trust with the work of evangelism. They must recognize fully who Jesus is. They had to make their own personal decision and confession.
 - Messiah in Hebrew/Aramaic means "the Anointed One." It is the equivalent of Christ in Greek.
 - Peter is proclaiming Him to be God.
 - The public cannot know His identify as the Messiah yet because of their misunderstanding of the Messiah's work. They understood the Messiah as coming to rescue them from Rome's dominion & to rebuild the nation Israel. See John 6:15 "Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself."

- Pronouncing Him as Christ at that moment would distract Jesus' mission which He will begin to teach.
4. If Jesus were to ask you, "Who do you say I am?" What would be your answer? When you first met Jesus, what kind of Christ did you imagine Him to be?

Read vs. 31-33

5. As soon as He was recognized as Christ, He began to teach them what kind of Messiah He was. What 4 things did He say "must" happen? Why are these things "must"?
- suffer, rejected, be killed, & rise again
 - Suffering, rejection, & death were His mission.
 - They are the fulfillment of prophecies. (Acts 3:18)
 - He took up our sin & suffering as an offering for sin. (Is 53:3-4, 11)
 - Suffering is God's path to glory. (Heb 2:9)
 - This is His way to make us holy. (Heb 13:12)
6. How did Peter react to His teaching? Why was Peter so disturbed by this teaching? What's so wrong with Peter that Jesus had to rebuke him?
- Peter had a violent protest & rebuked Jesus.
 - Peter merely had "human concerns" v.33. He might care about Jesus & not want Him to suffer. He might have followed Jesus attracted by His power & hoped for a more glorious future with Jesus to rescue his nation. Maybe power, fame, and good things were in his agenda.
 - It is totally in opposition to God's plan & purpose for Christ & His people. This view of Christ is no different from the people's view. Using Him as a mean to get what we want and reducing Him to be our servant doing our will. In saying "Never, Lord..." (Mt 16:22) Peter was acting more like Jesus' master than His disciple.
7. v. 33 described a couple of Jesus' action before rebuking Peter. What were they? What do you think went through Jesus' mind before He rebuked Peter? Why is correcting Peter so important? What did Jesus say was Peter's problem? What were Peter's concerns? What were God's concerns?
- He "turned & looked at his disciples".
 - He recognized that the other disciples would have similar struggles & Peter's leadership can potentially lead others in the wrong way.
 - If Peter were to be used by God, he must be corrected. He can also be a leader in the flesh & do great damage to His work.
 - His concerns were human concerns, not God's.
 - Possibly for Jesus' physical, economical, & political "wellbeing", Peter's mind was in wellness, power, fame, or rescue of Israel from Rome.
 - God's concern was in salvation of the world, turning of man's heart back to Him, the disciples' growth & maturity into Holiness.

Read vs. 34-38

After dealing with the leader individually, Jesus turned to all the disciples and the crowd to tell them what He expected of them.

8. What are the three things one "must" do to be His disciple? What does each of them mean? In behavioral terms, what does each of them look like in contemporary society and in your life?
 - Three decisive actions of a disciple
 - Deny themselves - rid self of self-centeredness, surrendering of self.
 - Take up their cross - symbol of shame, path to death, taking on new identity
 - Follow me - path of suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection; His purpose, His goal, His way; obedience to His direction, vision of a new direction
9. Why did Jesus say these requirements are musts? Why would trying to save one's own life or gaining the world leads to losing life/soul/self (Lk 9:25)? Is there a guarantee about the gain and the loss? Have you experienced something similar or seen in others?
 - Reasons
 - That's the way to save life
 - to prevent losing our soul
 - to share in God's glory when He comes
 - No one can serve two masters (Mt 6:24); Matt 7:13-14 the path of the world leads to destruction; no one can love the world and the Father (I John 2:15-16)
 - Saving life & gaining the world were "wants to" & "to gain", not guaranteed successes. Yet loses their life & forfeit their soul seem certain (will lose).
10. How would losing one's life for Christ & the gospel save it? Is this a guarantee? Have you experience this or seen it in others?
 - Ridding of our old self as Paul calls it enables us to be transformed to take on the new self by the renewing of our minds. (Eph 4:22-24; II Cor 5:17; Rom 6:6-8, 11) Peter sees it as living for God (I Pet 4:1-2) It is living the life that God had created us for and Christ had redeemed us for. This is truly living. As we take up the cross & follow Him, we learn to identify with Him and find our true self in relationship with Him. Jesus is saying that denying oneself, losing our old sinful self and taking on His way, His life, death, & resurrection is the way to really live out what we were created & redeemed to be.
 - v. 35 "will save it." It's a guarantee.
11. Why or when would a disciple be ashamed of Christ or His Words? Why did Jesus emphasize the condition of our generation in v. 38? What would happen if a disciple is ashamed of Christ & His words? What is the contrasting condition at that time? Why is this view of the future important to us as we take up our cross?
 - When we care about what the world thinks of us. When we live in fear of what the world will do to us. When our old self is not quite dead & we want what we want. When we think His words is not good for us.

- Jesus understands that the adulterous & sinful generation is the context of our struggles. It is the place where we need to shine brightly. This is our battleground & Jesus understands the difficulties we face.
- Christ will be ashamed of him.
- Instead of the adulterous & sinful generation, it's the "Father's glory with the holy angels." The time is when He comes.
- The certainty of His glory, His opinion of us needs to drive us to live with meaning even if it means denying our self & taking up His shame & suffering.

12. Is there a middle ground in all this so to have the best of both worlds? Why is attempting to live in the best of both worlds not possible and dangerous?

- It's pretty clear cut, either or. You either love God with all your hearts or you don't. Trying to gain any part of the world will lead to destruction & loss. No one can serve two masters (Mt 6:24)

13. Having heard these hard sayings of Jesus, what would you say to Jesus if He asks you "will you follow me?" What will you need to deny in yourself? Please write your decision as a prayer to the Lord & keep this prayer in a prominent place as a daily reminder.