

MARK 8:27-30 THE REVELATION

INTRO:

- **We have arrived at this point in the gospel of Mark, a point in Christ's life and ministry where things are going to change. a final direction is being taken.**
- **From the disciple's point of view, it is a change, and they do not understand it nor like it much.**
- **Here in Marks gospel, Jesus begins a transition from predominantly working with the multitudes, to now the narrow group of disciples. Moving from Galilee unto Judea and Jerusalem.**
- **Setting His face like a flint to accomplish His mission.**
 - **Isa. 50:7;** For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.
 - **Lk. 9:51;** Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,
- **At this point the disciples have been with Jesus for more than 2 years**
- **Jesus is about 6 months from His crucifixion and all of His mission hangs on these six months.**
- **The question looms, will the chosen disciples see, will they perceive Who He is, and why He came?**
- **All of His ministry has led to this point.**
- **All His works and miracles were to bring their understanding to this moment.**
- **John 20:31**
- **Jesus here asks His disciples two questions.**
- **By these two questions Jesus is drawing out the disciples to what others say and more importantly what they themselves have come to believe.**
- **He wants them to hear with their own ears, to realize and grasp what He has brought them to believe. They are now committed by their own confession.**

SETTING:

- **Caesarea Philippi: a town about 25 Miles north of Bethsaida, which was on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee and was located at the foot of Mt. Hermon. ("Sacred Place." highest mountain in ancient Israel.)**
- **It was named after Augustus Caesar and Herod Philip. (son of Herod the great.)**
- **A marble temple was constructed there dedicated to Augustus Caesar and this area was steeped in heathen religion and worship.**
- **It was a place dedicated as well to the glory of Rome**
- **In Caesarea Philippi, the masses would confess Caesar is Lord.**
- **That might put them in good standing there and in Rome, but it would not save them from their sins or sins penalty. It would not put them in good standing with God.**

- Rome's glory has long since faded, but our Christ is now and eternally all glorious, a glory that will never fade.
- Lk. 9:18 show us that Jesus was in prayer when the disciples approached Him and He began to question them.
- We must realize that all that has come before was to bring the disciples to this point, the realization that their dear Jesus, their teacher was indeed the promised Messiah. God come in the flesh.
 - And it happened, as He was alone praying, *that* His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

VS. 27 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?"*

- In this verse and also in vs. 29 we are given a hint as to the correct answer; "I AM."

VS. 28 ²⁸ *So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."*

- The burden of Christ's ministry at this time was the declaring to His disciples the truth of His Messiahship. Then to convince them of the way the path by which the Messiah would accomplish His mission.
- The people saw Jesus as a great miracle worker. They knew He had divine power like one of the prophets, but they did not believe Him to be the One, The long awaited and promised Messiah.
- The Messiah to them would not only do the miraculous but most importantly he would be victorious in military conquest. A deliverer who would overthrow the pagan Roman occupiers and establish the kingdom of Israel.
- They could not see, being blinded by their own prejudices and desires.
- This was so impressed into the minds of all Israelites that even John the Baptist questioned if he had missed the true Messiah.
 - Mt. 11:2-3; And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"
- The fact that the public saw in Jesus the possibility of being John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets shows us they understood He was special and sent to them from God,
- but in reality, it was not a complement to Him for Christ is far above all, there is no way to compare the infinite with the finite, the perfect with the imperfect. He was so much more than just an anointed man; He is God come in the flesh. Emanuel.
- The public's assumption falls way below the truth so He asks them, but who do you say I am.

VS. 29 ²⁹ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

- This is only the second time Mark uses the title, "Christ." The first time is the opening verse of Mark; 1:1; The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- What comes to our minds when we think of Christ, Who He is, is eternally important.
- A. W. Tozer said this well when he said, "what comes to mind when we think of God is the most important thing about us."
- What we think of Him sets the direction of our lives.
- It leads us into correct living and conduct, it affects the correctness of our conformity to the image of God, the God who is, the biblical God.
- This great question of Jesus, "who do men say I am?" is the question of the ages. It separates the sheep from the goats. It has eternal consequences.
- Our confession of who Jesus Christ is, is a matter of eternal life or death.
 - JN. 8:24b Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.
 - **1 JN. 4:1-3**
 - Rom. 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- This is what all Christs' ministry was leading up to, was pointing to, can you perceive Who I am? Are you beginning to see me clearly?
- The disciples, by the eternal influence of God, are beginning to see who Jesus is, yet they have so much more to see of Christ and His mission. More Spirit born revelation is needed. (us too.)

Go to Matt. 16:16 etc.

- Peter's answer is most glorious and how the heart of Jesus must have rejoiced to hear it.
- And so, He responds to Peter, "blessed are you" because of the revelation you received of Me, for flesh and blood did not reveal it...
- Notice Peter was not blessed because he was Peter, but because the Father had communed, had revealed His truth to him.
- "Thou art the Christ." The long promised and awaited Redeemer, Deliverer. (Gen. 2:15) The one the prophets prophesied about, the great Promise of Israel. The Savior of the Nation.
- Here they correctly proclaim Him to be not only the Christ, but also the "Son of the living God."
- Not a son by adoption, but by true nature. God of true God. Emanuel.
- Some at this time believed John the Baptist, Eliah and some of the O.T. prophets were sons of God, but by adoption and not by nature.
- Who would people say Jesus is today? A good example, a prophet, one of the images of God, a created being, made the best, to pay for men's sins?
- Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Redeemer, or personal deliverer from sin, it's power, its penalty, and soon it presence,
 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

- **Mt. 16:18; Upon this Rock I will build My Church.**
- **Peter, Petros, a stone or rock, "a detached stone or boulder," or a stone that might be thrown or easily moved.**
- **Rock: Petra, A substantial stone, a type of a sure foundation, denotes "a mass of rock," as distinct from petros,**
 - **Lk. 6:48**
 - **1 Cor. 10:4**
- **This revelation and confession is the foundation that we and the rest of the church is built upon.**
 - **1 Cor. 3:11**
 - **Eph. 2:20**
- **Repeatedly and clearly the 4 gospels reiterate the theme that Jesus is both Messiah and the Son of God. Dozens of times.**
- **This is the very purpose that these accounts were written. As mentioned in JN. 20:31**

VS. 30 ³⁰ *Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.*

- **Jesus strictly warns them to tell no one of this event and their realization and acknowledgment of Him being the Messiah.**
- **Why? The reasons are several,**
 - **1) He did not want the wild attentions and pressure from the crowds and their desire to challenge the present political powers. It would cause a uproar. His ability to move about would be greatly hindered.**
 - **2) They were not equipped or released to proclaim Him as Messiah. They needed more training, teaching and most importantly, they were not yet equipped or qualified to be His witnesses.**
- **There must be a calvary, a crucifixion, a resurrection and ascension and then a Pentecost.**
 - **See Acts 1:4-8**

CONCLUSION:

- **Who or what do people say I am? Honest, humble, a man of his word, caring, generous, godly, or dishonest, self-centered, proud?**
- **More importantly, what does God say? My Child, accepted, loved, chosen, redeemed, My joy.**
- **Who do I say Jesus is? Does my life line up with my answer?**
- **What comes to my mind when I think of God?**
- **How does the revelation of Who Jesus is affect my daily life?**