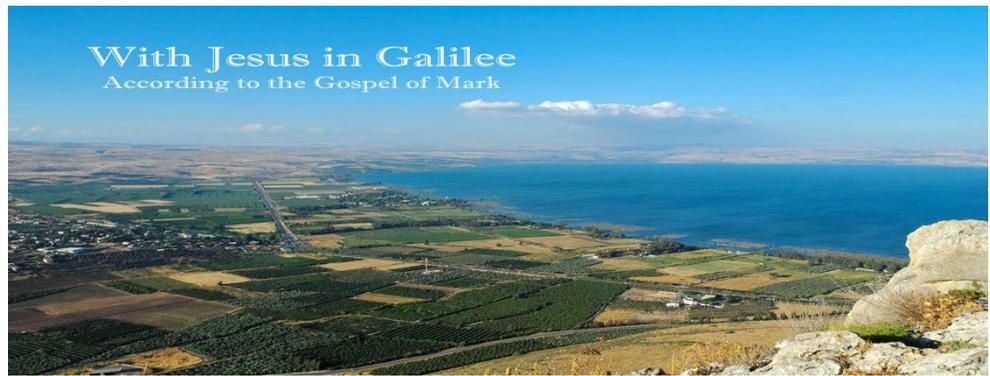




Lab Study Guide

Allendale Fall 2018



Date: 12/02/18

Teacher: Ben Post

Text: Matthew 16:13-20/Mark 8:27-30

Any other Text?: 2 Timothy 1:7-10

Main Idea/Desired Application:

1. **Read the Text Together** Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.
2. **Make Observations** What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?
3. **Ask Questions** What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

4. Background

- Caesarea Philippi is 25 miles N of Sea of Galilee, at the foot of Mt. Hermon and the headwaters of the Jordan River. It stood at the base of a big cliff where spring water flowed. At one time, the water ran directly from the mouth of a cave in the bottom of the cliff. To the pagan mind, the cave and spring water here created a gate to the underworld. They believed that their city was literally at the gates of the underworld—the gates of Hades.
- This place 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.
- Great Olympian gods like Zeus lived in heaven. There were also gods who lived on the earth. Of these, Pan, was maybe most important. Pan was the son of Hermes and grandson of Zeus. Pan was a happy god of song and party, drinking, of sex and fertility for the farmer and shepherd.
- Pan was part man and part goat - portrayed as having goat legs, human torso and arms, and goat ears and horns on a human head. He had a whole collection of lovers called nymphs, usually portrayed as naked young women with whom he fooled around with, bringing fertility to the land.
- At Caesarea Philippi, a worship center for Pan was discovered.

5. Application Questions

1. Who are you? How might your friends describe you? (Reputation, passions, interests, etc.)
2. Where are the Caesarea Philippi's in our world today? What are the implications of the gospel in light of Jesus' words to his disciples at Caesarea Philippi?
3. How do you feel when you think about Jesus entrusting the Keys of the Kingdom to you and I?
4. What might you do this week to fully live into the call God has placed on you - to shine the light and love of Jesus in the dark places of our world? Something special during finals stress?
5. Create your own question! :-)

6. Have everyone answer....

What is something new you learned about Jesus this week from this story?

