

The Story: Chapter 25 "Jesus, the Son of God"

In the past few weeks we've looked at the birth of Jesus,
- The beginning of Jesus' ministry,

We learned that He was definitely No Ordinary Man!

But, today we see where He takes His followers to a whole new level.

Watch how this happens...

Mark 8:27-30

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

This is the part of The Story that got very personal for the followers of Jesus and WILL become very personal to you and me:

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Before this...

- They've seen Jesus teaching on how the Kingdom of God will look on this earth.
- They've seen the teaching on how we should live as followers of Christ.
- They've seen Him doing miracles and healing people.
- They've seen His heart for people that are hurting or in sin.

It's been assumed by many that He is the Messiah, the Son of God.

- But, sometimes it's a lot easier to assume something is true than it is to actually hear it out loud.

EX: Whoa now...

But it is now time for Jesus to begin making them aware of Who He really is and what that means for Him and for them.

One way God makes this very clear to all of the people...

The Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-8

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) ⁷ Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

The Transfiguration is when the glory of Jesus shines through Him so that the three Disciples could see His “radiant glory”.

Really, before this time they had seen Jesus as their Savior but I’m not sure they had all really dealt with the fact that He was actually God’s Son!

Then He begins to teach in a new way:

Mark 8:31

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Then it got very real with this teaching:

Mark 8:34-35

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

They haven't heard this concept in this way before now.

- They've spent most of their time with Jesus enjoying what He is offering them.
- The idea that they had to sacrifice was new to them.
- And they were being forced to make some hard decisions...

This is how Jesus described following Him:

Luke 9:57-62

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Jesus is helping them understand how critical it is to follow Him completely.

It's really this question: "Are you in or out?"

- He's teaching them what it's like to be "in". And, they're going to have to choose their spot moving forward.

Example of the difficult teaching:

John 6:53-59

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

John 6:65-66

⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

Here's the situation...

- When His teaching began to call His followers to a deeper commitment than just following from a distance, or just enjoying the miracles, or just eating the food, people began to walk away.

And, Jesus says to His closest Disciples...

John 6:67-69

⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

How does this relate to us?

I think the Disciples of Jesus were being forced to make a decision.

- Are you going to continue to follow Jesus as the Son of God even though the challenge of His teaching is getting stronger?

In today's language, we ask it this way:

Are you going to settle for a relationship with Jesus that includes your "fire insurance" to keep you out of hell, or are you going to completely surrender to His Lordship moving forward?

What does it look like to make Jesus your Savior AND your Lord?

EX: Most of us have heard that question... It's a church language question...

Is it possible to make Jesus our Savior and not make Him our Lord?

- Can we get saved and get our place in Heaven but not actually live for Jesus on earth?

Here's the deal: When we're 10 years old and we surrender our lives to Jesus, no one expects us to know all there is to know about how to serve Jesus as our Lord.

- However, as a maturing and growing Believer, there should be no question that Jesus expects to be both, our Savior and our Lord.

I do think many of us have had an experience where, after we have been saved in relationship to Jesus, we get a deeper connection of Who He is as the LORD of our life.

- We don't have to explain it all away. We just have to know that it happened and we're good with it.

So, what does it look like for Jesus to be Lord of our life?

1. We have a deep understanding of Who Jesus is.

All relationships are built on knowing the other person.

We cannot claim Jesus as our Lord if we do not know Who He is.

John 1:1-4

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 14:6

... I Am the way, the truth, and the Life, and no one goes to the Father except through Me.

John 10:11

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

2. We understand what Jesus wants us to do.

Luke 10:27

Love God... love your neighbor.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

You simply cannot consider Him your Lord if you don't know what He wants you to do.

(and I don't mean in one situation)

3. We are fully committed to His will over our will.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Challenge:

One of our major struggles in our culture today is people that claim Jesus as Lord but then don't have any of the three characteristics we just listed.

Does anyone remember the story of the fig tree in Matthew 21?

Matthew 21:18-19

¹⁸ Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹ Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

The main problem with the fig tree was that it was showing that it would have fruit but it had none. Jesus was not just mad because He was hungry. He was using this a teaching lesson for all believers.

Lordship is not something that we can just claim anymore.

It has to be the overwhelming passion in our lives.

Remember when Jesus asked the Disciples if they wanted to leave Him too?

They said no, and here's why:

⁶⁹We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Do you believe?

Do you know Who Jesus really is?

Are you willing to completely surrender your will to His everyday.

That is Lordship. And that's the question you and I have to answer today!!