



This five-day devotional will take a deeper dive into [this weekend's sermon](#), focusing on Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ and Jesus' teaching about His coming suffering, death, and resurrection. Together, we'll explore what it truly means to recognize Jesus for who He is, why following Him requires surrender, and how our understanding of His mission shapes the way we live out our faith each day.

Day 1 – The Question Everyone Must Answer

Mark 8:27–28

27 Jesus went out with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the road he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

28 They answered him, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets."

29 "But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

On the road to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to His disciples and asks a question that seems simple on the surface: *"Who do people say I am?"* It's not a trick question—He already knows the answer. Instead, He's inviting them to consider the gap between public opinion and divine truth.

The disciples respond with what they've heard: John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. These were respectable titles—people saw Jesus as important, even extraordinary—but they

still missed His true identity. This reveals something about human nature: we can admire Jesus without actually knowing Him.

Today, the same variety of opinions exists. Ask ten different people who Jesus is, and you might hear “great teacher,” “moral example,” “religious leader,” or “fictional figure.” None of those capture the fullness of who He is. And if we’re not careful, we can let cultural opinions subtly shape our view of Him—without ever realizing we’ve drifted from the truth.

Jesus’ question is still relevant: *Are you letting the crowd tell you who I am, or are you seeking Me for yourself?* If your picture of Jesus is shaped mainly by what others say—whether in the media, social conversations, or even secondhand from other Christians—you may have a partial view at best.

Questions to Consider:

- Where have you seen the world get Jesus “partly right but not completely”?
- How might public opinion have shaped your own view of Jesus without you realizing it?
- What can you do this week to know Him from Scripture rather than secondhand sources?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to guard your heart from adopting a “crowd-sized” view of Jesus. Pray for a hunger to know Him as He truly is through His Word.

Notes:

Day 2 – When Faith Gets Personal

Mark 8:29–30

²⁹ “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he strictly warned them to tell no one about him.

After asking about the crowd, Jesus makes it personal: *"But who do you say I am?"* The shift from "they" to "you" is intentional. He's not asking for a report—He's asking for a confession.

Peter answers quickly and confidently: *"You are the Messiah."* In that moment, he declares that Jesus is not just a prophet or teacher—He is the promised one sent by God to bring salvation. This was a monumental statement, especially in a time when many were still debating Jesus' identity.

But notice this: a personal confession can't be inherited. It's not enough to say, "My parents believe," or "My church teaches." At some point, your faith must become your own. Peter's answer was not secondhand—it was his conviction.

Yet as the next verses will show, even with the right answer, Peter still had an incomplete understanding of what Messiah meant. This reminds us that faith is both a moment of confession and a lifetime of growing into that truth. Declaring Jesus as Messiah is the beginning, not the end, of discipleship.

Questions to Consider:

- If Jesus asked you today, "Who do you say I am?"—how would you answer?
- How did you first come to personally believe that Jesus is the Messiah?
- In what ways does this belief affect your daily decisions?

Prayer Focus:

Thank God for revealing Himself to you. Ask Him to deepen your conviction that Jesus is Lord and to help you live in a way that reflects that truth.

Notes:

Day 3 – The Mission They Didn’t Expect

Mark 8:31

³¹ Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days.

Peter’s declaration that Jesus is the Messiah is met with an unexpected twist. Jesus begins to explain what being Messiah truly means: *“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected... be killed, and after three days rise again.”*

For the disciples, this was shocking. The Messiah was supposed to conquer enemies, restore Israel’s kingdom, and reign in power—not suffer and die. But Jesus makes it clear: His mission is not built on political takeover but on sacrificial love. The cross is not a detour in His plan—it’s the centerpiece.

This is where we often wrestle with God’s ways. We prefer a version of Jesus who brings immediate solutions to our problems without calling us into uncomfortable or costly paths. Yet the real Jesus comes with a mission that includes both glory and suffering.

If we embrace Him only for His miracles and blessings but reject His cross, we’ve misunderstood who He is. The disciples had to learn this—and so do we.

Questions to Consider:

- How does Jesus’ description of His mission challenge your expectations of Him?
- Are there ways you’ve hoped Jesus would avoid suffering—and by extension, that you could too?
- Why is it important that the Messiah’s mission included suffering and resurrection?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to help you embrace the full truth of who Jesus is, even when it challenges your comfort or expectations.

Notes:

Day 4 – The Danger of Misaligned Thinking

Mark 8:32–33a

³² He spoke openly about this. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning around and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God's concerns^[a] but human concerns."

Peter's reaction is immediate—he pulls Jesus aside and rebukes Him. In modern terms: *"Jesus, this whole suffering and dying plan—it's not good strategy."* His intentions may have been to protect Jesus, but his thinking was rooted in human wisdom, not God's plan.

We often do the same. We cling to our own logic, preferences, and understanding, trying to shape God's will into something that fits our comfort zone. But good intentions are not the same as right alignment.

Peter loved Jesus, yet in that moment, his words were pulling against God's mission. This is a sobering reminder: even as committed followers, we can unintentionally oppose God if we value our preferences over His purpose.

Questions to Consider:

- Have you ever resisted God's plan because it didn't match your expectations?
- What does this reveal about the tension between human desires and God's purposes?
- How can you develop a habit of seeking God's perspective first?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for humility to release your own expectations and submit to God's wisdom, even when it doesn't make sense.

Notes:

Day 5 – Seeing Through God’s Eyes

Mark 8:33b

³³ *But turning around and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God’s concerns^[a] but human concerns.”*

Jesus doesn’t respond gently here—He rebukes Peter with some of the strongest words in Scripture: *“Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God’s concerns but human concerns.”*

This isn’t Jesus calling Peter “Satan” in identity—it’s a statement about the source of Peter’s thinking. Any mindset that avoids the cross is ultimately opposing God’s salvation plan.

It’s possible to have zeal for God but still be out of sync with His priorities. This is why we need regular heart checks to ask, *Am I thinking about this from God’s perspective or mine?* Aligning with God’s concerns often means surrendering our timelines, comfort, and control.

When we see through God’s eyes, the cross is not a failure—it’s victory. The suffering of Jesus is not an obstacle—it’s the very means by which redemption comes.

Questions to Consider:

- What “human concerns” tend to pull your focus away from God’s concerns?
- How might aligning your perspective with God’s change the way you approach challenges?
- What step can you take today to think more like Christ?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to transform your mind so that His concerns become your concerns. Pray for discernment to recognize when your thinking is out of alignment with His purposes.

Notes:
