

## Who Do You Say Jesus Is? | Mark 8 | 11.25.18

*May Jesus lead us to those we can help and protect us from those we can't!*

**Mark 8:11-13** Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. <sup>12</sup> But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation." <sup>13</sup> And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.

**Mark 8:14-21** Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." <sup>16</sup> And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup> But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? <sup>18</sup> Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." <sup>20</sup> "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven." <sup>21</sup> So He said to them, "How is it you do not understand?"

At the judgment seat, God will not examine us on how much we know. We will be judged on how we exhibited our love for Him and others. There will be surprises.

**Mark 8:22-26** Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. <sup>24</sup> And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." <sup>25</sup> Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. <sup>26</sup> Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

### **The very nature of who Jesus is demands two things.**

1. An inescapable question
2. One acceptable answer (\*When it comes to Jesus, we don't get to be almost right.)

**Mark 8:27-33** 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?" <sup>28</sup> So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup> Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. <sup>31</sup> And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly. **Then Peter took Him aside and began to**

**rebuke Him.** <sup>33</sup> *But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

1. Jesus expects us to be engaged with the people around us and their religious views for the purpose of sharing the gospel.
2. This provided a platform for the disciples to declare what they truly believed.
3. The real issue is this, are we truly convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the eternal Son of God?
4. Do we attempt with God's grace to build our lives around the truth claims made by Jesus Christ or our own agenda?
5. Jesus gave clear instructions, do not speak about my upcoming suffering and death

It comes as a shock to some people that Satan uses professed Christians in the church to accomplish his work. But Satan used Peter to try to lead Jesus on a wrong path, and he used Ananias and Sapphira to try to deceive the church at Jerusalem.

***Jesus, in paradox language, calls us to see the advantage of dying to self.***

- *How well do we get His teaching on self-denial?*
- *How well do we really want to grasp it?*

**Mark 8:34-38** *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

Self-worship (**Romans 1**) & Idols of the heart (**Ezekiel 14**):

- Dying to self will never come natural or easy.
- Dying to self is not an end in itself but a means to be more alive in Christ.
- Dying to self requires God's grace. (We have inside help with the indwelling Holy Spirit.)
- Dying to self is not a one and done, we resurrect our selfish desires constantly.
- Our culture ignores the reality of death and the possibility of eternity.

<sup>36</sup> *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

- The way we know who's in charge of our life is by how we identify with Christ.

<sup>38</sup> *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

**"Millions call themselves by His name, it is true, and pay some token of respect to Him, but a simple test will show how little He is really honored among them. Let the average man be put to the proof on the question of who or what is above, and his true choice between God and money, between God and man, between God and personal ambition, God and self, God and human love, and God will take second place every time. **However the man may protest, the proof is in the choices he makes day after day throughout his life.**"** A.W. Tozer