



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 21

“Confessing Christ & Denying Ourselves”

10-10-21

Introduction: Getting Our Bearings

The Gospel of Mark is a compilation of accounts from the life of Jesus as conveyed by the apostle Peter. Mark weaves these various events and teachings into a narrative that is intended to demonstrate for his readers that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

The Structure & Themes of Mark’s Gospel

1. Mark’s gospel is action oriented and has an identifiable structure that is centered on geography. → →
2. Mark wants to show His audience who Jesus truly is. (_____)
3. Mark wants His audience to understand what it means to truly follow Jesus. (_____)

Key Point: Peter’s _____ of Jesus as Messiah and His subsequent _____ of Jesus’ true mission serve as a reminder to all followers of Jesus that we must look to Him rather than to ourselves if we are to live faithfully as His people.

Peter’s Confession – Mark 8:27-30

- Having arrived in the territory of Phillip the Tetrarch, Jesus and His followers journeyed to Caesarea-Philippi.

Mark 8:27-30—²⁷ And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

- ⇒ The question Jesus asks the disciples makes sense in light of recent encounter with the _____.
- ⇒ The generic answers that they offer convey the general views of those who were “_____.”
- ⇒ Although Peter’s confession is his own, it certainly _____ the views of the other disciples apart from Judas. “Christ” – χριστός (*christos*) – Anointed, chosen; used in the LXX of the Hebrew *mashiach* (“messiah”)
- ⇒ Jesus’ response to the disciples and His subsequent explanation implied that they did not fully understand the _____ of Messiah.

Key Point: The confession that Jesus was the Messiah revealed the genuine _____ of the disciples!

The Fullness of His Mission – Mark 8:31-33

- Jesus then explained to the disciples what it would truly mean for Him to accomplish the work of Messiah.

Mark 8:31-32a—³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly.

- ⇒ Jesus’ use of the title “Son of Man” (Daniel 7:13-14) _____ their confession of Him as Messiah.
- ⇒ His description of what would happen to Him was intended to _____ their expectations of Messiah’s mission. “must” “plainly”

Mark 8:32b-33—And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

- ⇒ Peter’s rebuke of Jesus demonstrated the limits of his own understanding of the _____ of the Messiah.
- ⇒ Jesus’ rebuke of Peter centered on his _____ thinking which was antithetical to the Lord’s mission.

Key Point: Jesus’ words to the disciples revealed that He was determined to do the _____ of God no matter what it would cost Him!

True Discipleship— Mark 8:34-38

- **Jesus then took the opportunity to instruct His followers regarding the true cost of discipleship.**

Mark 8:34—³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

⇒ Following Jesus would mean a radical reorientation of how a person was to view their own _____.

“deny himself”

“take up his cross”

Mark 8:35-37—³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

⇒ These verses further explain His primary exhortation:

(1) True life is found in _____ and _____ Christ, not in pursuing one’s own comforts and desires.

(2) Worldly comforts and pleasures are ultimately of no _____ value apart from Christ.

(3) Rejection of Christ, either _____ or in terms of how one lives their life, will have eternal consequences.

“ashamed”

Key Point: The Lord’s words to His followers call them to a life that _____ that of His own!

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

- **Mark wants his audience to understand the relationship between confessing Christ and following Him.**
- **Mark wants his audience to count the cost of what it will mean to be Jesus’ disciples.**

Concluding Thoughts

- **The Lord’s words concerning true discipleship remain instructive for us today. We are to understand them, however, in light of His death, burial, and resurrection.**

We look _____ from ourselves and _____ Christ!

Heb. 2:2—² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

We recognize our _____ with Christ!

Gal. 2:20—*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

⇒ **In His death, in order that _____ might be dealt with!**

“Christians need to understand that bearing the cross does not in the first place refer to the trials which we call crosses, but to the daily giving up of life, of dying to self, which must mark us as much as it did the Lord Jesus, which we need in times of prosperity almost more than adversity, and without which the fullness of the blessing...cannot be disclosed to us.” — Andrew Murray

⇒ **In His resurrection, in order that we might have new _____ in Him!**

“Would that we would lose sight of our ‘cross’ in His cross, then His cross becomes our cross; His death, our death; His grave, our grave; His resurrection, our resurrection; His risen life, our newness of life. No, taking up our cross does not mean the stoical bearing of some heavy burden, hardship, [etc.]...Taking up the cross may or may not involve such things, but such things do not constitute our cross...The believer’s cross is the cross of Calvary, the one on which he was crucified with Christ. The eternal emancipation proclamation was signed with the blood of the Lamb and sealed by the Spirit of God. Every believer is thereby freed from all bondage...” — Miles Stanford, *Principles of Spiritual Growth*



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1. Mark’s gospel is action oriented and has an identifiable structure that is centered on geography.
Ministry in Galilee → The Journey to Jerusalem → In Jerusalem: Teaching, the Cross, the Resurrection
2. Mark wants to show His audience who Jesus truly is. (**Christology**)
3. Mark wants His audience to understand what it means to truly follow Jesus. (**Discipleship**)

Key Point: Peter’s **confession** of Jesus as Messiah and His subsequent **rejection** of Jesus’ true mission serve as a reminder to all followers of Jesus that we must look to Him rather than to ourselves if we are to live faithfully as His people.

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- ⇒ The question Jesus asks the disciples makes sense in light of recent encounter with the **Pharisees**.
- ⇒ The generic answers that they offer convey the general views of those who were “**outsiders**.”
- ⇒ Although Peter’s confession is his own, it certainly **reflects** the views of the other disciples apart from Judas.
*“Christ”—χριστός (christos) — Anointed, chosen; used in the LXX of the Hebrew *mashiach* (“messiah”)*
- ⇒ Jesus’ response to the disciples and His subsequent explanation implied that they did not fully understand the **mission** of Messiah.

Key Point: The confession that Jesus was the Messiah revealed the genuine **faith** of the disciples!

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