

MARK: THE JESUS YOU NEED TO KNOW PART 6

“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

SCRIPTURE: MARK 8:27–9:1

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INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is establishing that He has come with power and is revealing why He has come, and who He is.
- In Caesarea Philippi—a city dominated by Roman power and emperor worship, Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?”

I. ONE QUESTION TO RULE THEM ALL

- Mark 8:29-30, Then He asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.”³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.”
- It is possible to identify who Jesus is without understanding what it actually means.
- We all declare a lord over our lives, which lord is over ours?
- Possible Masters: Acceptance and Approval - from people whose image we are not made in.
- Fear – we live without certainty that God is actually in control and has our best interest in mind.

II. WHO WE WANT VS. WHO WE NEED

- Jesus is going to disappoint their expectations, to accomplish His purposes.
- Mark 8:31-33 NLT, “...³³ Jesus...then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” He said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”
- The disciples expected a Messiah of power and victory.
- The cross was not a failure of God’s plan. It was the center of it.
- They anticipated glory without suffering.

- Peter is trying to make Jesus into the image that He needs Him to be.
- How have we made Jesus into the image of what we want Him to be instead of the Lord that He actually is?

III. SUFFERING TO FOLLOW

- Mark 8:34 NLT, “...He said, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me.”
- Jesus’ Expectations for Following:
 - Deny Yourself - Self-denial is denying yourself the right to rule your own life.
 - Take Up Your Cross - Meant embracing the reality of suffering and sacrifice in our allegiance to Christ.
 - Follow Me - Choosing to be committed to Jesus.
- The Paradox: Mark 8:35 NLT, “...if you give up your life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.”
- Profit and Loss: Mark 8:36-37 NLT, “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?...”
 - Success in the eyes of the world just might be failure in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.
- Shame and Glory: Mark 8:38 NLT, “If anyone is ashamed of Me ...the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when He returns in the glory of His Father...”
 - You can be applauded now and unknown in eternity or rejected now and welcomed in glory.

CLOSE

- Jesus asked the disciples—and now asks us—“Who do you say I am?”
- If Jesus truly is the Messiah, then following Him means walking His road, a road that leads through the cross but ends in resurrection.
- We can’t truly see who Jesus is without following Him where He goes—and it always leads to a cross.