

Following Christ to the Cross

Mark 8:27-38

Crossroads, April 17, 2011

Announcements:

- **Easter Week**
 - o **Maundy Thursday** – last supper observation here – 8pm
 - o Good Friday – GBFC service - 7pm
 - o Pancake Breakfast – missions fund-raiser – Sat 8-11am
 - o **Crossroads Easter Celebration – Saturday (no CR Sunday)**
 - **Dinner 6pm ; Worship 7pm**
 - **Sign-up tonight for dinner, and to help**
 - o Easter Worship - GBFC service at 9am
 - **NA Babysit** – Fri. April 29
 - **International Student Ministry Sign-up**
 - **Booklets** – free to use
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READ Mark 8:27-38

Pray

1) Intro:

- **“How to study the Bible” – OIA summary**
 - o *OIA Chart*
- **Mid-point / Hinge in Mark** (*note: list from Cliff Boone*)
 - o Travel around Galilee ... Set face to Jerusalem
 - o Teaches masses ... Focus on teach disciples
 - o 1x “I tell you the truth” ... 12x
 - o Forbid tell identity ... no longer says that
 - o Several demon encounter No more
 - o Disciples not know who Jesus is ... know Christ
 - o Jesus not speak of suffering ... now speaks clearly
 - o Both end with profession of who Jesus is – Peter says he is the Christ ... Centurion says “Son of God”
 - o Commentator: “Recognition that Jesus us the Messiah is thus the intersection toward which all the theological currents of the first half of the Gospel converge and from which the dynamic of the second half of the Gospel derive”

2) Jesus is the Christ

o **Work Through Mark 8:27-30**

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

o **Tension building to this point ...**

- Miracles, amazed crowd
- Association with sinners scandalize authorities
- All ask several times “who is this”, which Jesus did not answer
- Demons did know who he was, but others not catch it
- Even disciples ask who this is that calms the sea ... and the disciples accused of not understanding ...
- All lead to Peter declaring the answer

o **You are the Christ**

- Christ – title more than name - anointed one, Messiah
- Chosen / selected by God, for specific task, and empowered to accomplish it

o **Implications of saying Jesus is ‘the Christ’**

- From last week – Need God to open eyes
 - Lots of people see Jesus
 - Only now does anyone see the Christ
 - What’s the difference – Jesus opens blind eyes
- What did people expect of Christ?
 - OT messianic / second temple era expectations
- How should they respond to Christ?
 - See Him as LORD, bow and worship!

3) Christ Must Suffer and Die

- **Work Through Mark 8:31-33**

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. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

- Son of man must suffer ... not what anyone expected!
- Spoke plain ... but disciples not understand
- Peter rebukes
- Jesus harsh – in front of disciples – confronts Peter as Satan!
- Why Satan? Not have in mind things of God ... wants the wrong thing for Christ
- Sounds like Peter both saw and did not see something in the boat ... as Jesus reminds them all He has done Peter sees He is Christ, but miss the warning against yeast of Herod and Pharisee ... still expect political / religious king
- **Implications for Peter**
 - **Serious: Misunderstand purpose / method of Messiah**
 - **More Serious: Improper response to Christ**
 - **Most Serious: Impede mission of God**

4) Disciple Must Take Up Cross

- **Work Through Mark 8:34**

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.

- Deny Self
- Take up Cross
- Follow

- **Work Through Mark 8:35-37**

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

- Try to save life ... will lose it
- Lose life for Christ ... will save it
- What can you give for soul ... even entire world not a fair trade!

- **Work Through Mark 8:38**

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

- Ashamed

- **Implications for Disciples**

- **Will they follow the actual Christ?**
- **Following Jesus will shift from miracles, awe ... to suffering, rejection, death**
- **They, like Jesus, will experience suffering, rejection, death**
- **Will lead to amazing promise ... after 3 days rise again!**
- **If they are willing to give life, will get true life now and for eternity!**

Application for us

- **Head**

- Do you truly see, and understand who the true Jesus is?
- What will you do when the God of the Bible differs from the God you currently believe in / want to follow?

- **Hand**

- Are you willing to deny yourself, and your desires, and take up your cross to follow Jesus ... not just in your head but in the practical decisions and living of daily life?
- Will you follow Christ even when the destination is into suffering, rejection, even death?

- **Heart**

- Do you truly love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength ... or do you love yourself, your desires, your reputation more ... what motivates your daily life?
- How do you want to be seen – as a sold out for God, a disciple of Christ who is filled with the Spirit and telling others about God ... or are you ashamed of Him?

- **Repent and Believe the Good News**

- Mark begins by declaring in **Mark 1:1**
The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - He then goes on to show Jesus is indeed the Son of God, the Christ, the promised Messiah, until the disciples see and declare it themselves
- Jesus then begins His ministry declaring **Mark 1:14-15**
After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”
- Jesus then starts with the disciples by calling them to **follow**
- He clarifies on mountain – **be with me, go out in my name, have my authority**
- He now makes it plain the implication – **follow to death, die to self.**
- And **He gives a promise** – on the other side of death is **resurrection and a new life, a life worth giving up everything** to get
- This **Kingdom of God** is not a political or religious one, it is not one for the proud or self-righteous ... It is a **kingdom of sinner**, people who realize they have rebelled against God, but a people who are willing to repent and turn from their sins.
- It is a **kingdom of repentance** – of confessing and turning from sin
- It is a **kingdom of belief** – believe in the real Jesus, belief in the **Good News** that he is indeed the Son of God, the Messiah, God himself ... and that he really did die and rise again to take the punishment we deserved.

First and foremost Jesus would ask us each today:

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

“The time has come,” “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”