



Peter's Confession

Text: Mark 8:27-33

Context: We've been building to this climax - "**You are the Christ!**" (Mark 8:29) The assumptions and expectations the disciples have about following Jesus are about to change drastically. They are about to learn that following Jesus means *following*. Their lives are going to be *re-defined* by following the Servant King.

Read Mark 8:27-33

1) Jesus is the Christ. (Mark 8:27-30)

Why does what other people think about Jesus matter to the disciples? Why is Peter's confession (8:29) so significant? Who is "the Christ"?

2) Jesus is the *suffering* Servant King. (Mark 8:31-32a)

Read and compare Isaiah 53:4-7 (prophecy of the "Suffering Servant") with passages people in Jesus' day associated with the coming "Christ" (Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; and Daniel 7:13-14). Why do you think Jesus waits till this point in His ministry to share this with the disciples? How does this change or challenge the role of following Jesus for the disciples?

3) Jesus serves God's interests, not men. (Mark 8:32b-33)

How do you think the disciples reacted to Peter's rebuke of Jesus? Why does Jesus call Peter "Satan"? How could the interests of Peter and the disciples, who have been faithfully following Jesus, be about man's interests and not God's?

BIG IDEA: Following Jesus is setting your mind on God's interests, not man's. (Mark 8:33) In one verse (v31) Jesus combined different prophecies that most Jewish people anticipated as different distinct people (or prophetic roles), but not associated with the kingly Messiah –the Christ. This Jesus is the Christ, but not the Christ they were expecting. Following Jesus isn't about defining Him; instead it's about Jesus redefining you. Have you decided to *follow* Jesus?

Who do you say Jesus is? Why?

What are some examples of expectations or assumptions you had about following Jesus that were wrong?

How can you tell if your following Jesus with your mind set on God's interests and not on man's interests?

Next Week's Passage: Mark 8:34-38 (*To Follow Christ*)