

The Gospel According to Mark

Misunderstood Messiah

Mark 8:27–38

Mark 8:27 (NLT)

Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, “**Who do people say I am?**”

- Identity is clarified at the cross.

1. Confession Isn't The Same As Comprehension.

John 8:27-28 (NIV)

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.”

Mark 8:29 (NIV)

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

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

- Jesus is a Messiah who conquers through surrender.
- Am I following Jesus for who He is, or for what I think He will give me?

2. The Messiah Must Suffer.

Mark 8:31 (NLT)

Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man *must* suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.

Mark 8:32 (GNT)

He made this very clear to them. So Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Mark 8:33 (NIV)

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 concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

- The Messiah we want isn't always the Messiah He is.

3. Discipleship Requires Self-Denial.

Mark 8:34 (NIV)

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

- I cannot follow Jesus without denying myself.
- Self-denial isn't destruction, it's transformation.

4. Losing My Life Is The Only Way To Save It!

Mark 8:35 (NIV)

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

- If our main goal is self-preservation, we gradually destroy our souls; if surrender to Jesus and His gospel is our goal, we progressively discover life.

Mark 8:36-37 (NIV)

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

- Life isn't necessarily found in what you gain; it's found in what you're willing to give up for Jesus.
- Saving your old self is the surest way to lose your new self.

5. Ashamedness Reveals True Allegiance.

Mark 8:38 (NIV)

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

- *Ashamed* means distancing yourself when allegiance costs something; when loyalty demands a price.
- Hidden allegiance is not surrendered identity.
- **Am I following Jesus for who He is, or what He gives?**
- The cross exposes motives and reveals allegiance.
- **IDENTITY IS CLARIFIED AT THE CROSS.**