

Walking with Jesus

Mark 8

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

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

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

- Jesus asks the first question “Who do people say I am?” not because he didn’t know the answer, or because he was overly concerned about the opinions of people.
- Jesus asks the question, to see if anyone has caught onto who he really is.
- Because the revelation of who Jesus is comes from the Father...
- The first question also sets up the second, “Who do you say I am?”
- To this Peter declares, “You are the Messiah.”

Matthew’s Gospel goes into more detail

Matthew 16

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

- The Lord affirms Peter for getting this right...
- Even though it was given to him by the Father...
- The Lord doesn't just correct us, He also pays a complement when we get it right...
- Not only does Jesus compliment Peter but he reveals his purpose in Peter's life and how he will be used for the kingdom...

Vs. 31-33

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

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

33 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.”

This is the part Peter is equally remembered for, right after the complement he gets rebuked...

Peter is in process... One minute he has it right, the next he gets it wrong...

Peter must have thought he was on a roll. This also reveals the misstep in Peter's mind of how this would all go. In his mind the Messiah was a symbol of strength. One who would take a national roll

in delivering Israel from the oppression of its enemies. Not a “Suffering Messiah”

Vs. 33

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.”**

- As Peter walked with Jesus, he was transformed from a man who had **merely human concerns** to a man who learned to have **in mind the concerns of God...**
- This is the process God has for each of us...
- We are accustomed to doing things our way, but as we walk with Jesus, we are changed into a different person...

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

The Way of the Cross

34 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. **35** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36** What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? **37** Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **38** 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.”

Vs. 34

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Disciple: learner

Deny: to forget one's self, lose sight of one's self and one's own interests.

Follow: join him as his attendant, accompany him

Story: Testimony of a Young man who came under the impression that he was suppose to be a girl. He was deep into the process of transitioning to a girl, when he gave his life to Jesus. He was later baptized. Then in the process of spending time with Jesus he started reading Proverbs 31. Then Jesus said to him I didn't make you a girl, I made you to be a boy.

The saying is true "He receives you just as you are, and he love you too much to leave you there."

- Time with Jesus is life changing...
- It is a good thing to have fellowship with Jesus...
- To have relationship with the Savior...
- To talk with him and him listen, then to listen as he talks...
- This is where we are supernatural transformation happens...
- It's not because of religious belief but relationship with Jesus...

Ezekiel 36

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Story: Richard Dawkins – one of the world's most famous atheists – has declared himself to be a "cultural Christian".

The author of *The God Delusion*, a 2006 best-selling attack on the existence of God, made his remarks in an interview with Rachel Johnson for LBC radio in

which they discussed how the Muslim season of Ramadan was being celebrated in Oxford Street, London, instead of the Christian feast of Easter.

Mr Dawkins, 83, said: “I do think we are culturally a Christian country. I call myself a cultural Christian.”

He said: “I’m not a believer, but there is a distinction between being a believing Christian and a cultural Christian

He added: “I love hymns and Christmas carols and I sort of feel at home in the Christian ethos, and I feel that we are a Christian country in that sense.”

Dawkins Said he “would not be happy if, for example, we lost all our cathedrals and our beautiful parish churches”.

He continued: “So I call myself a cultural Christian and I think it would be truly dreadful if we substituted any alternative religion.”

- Many people want the benefits of Christ...
- Why because without Jesus there is no peace...
- Without Jesus there is no moral compass...
- Without Jesus there is no love in the world...
- But the true benefit of Christ only comes when we walk with Him and know Him...
- Any form of Godliness without God is powerless and superficial...

2 Timothy 3

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. **2** People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **4** treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Beware of Christianity without transformation...
Beware of Christianity without the power of God...
God hasn't called us to be Cultural Christians...
He has called us to be salt and light in a dark world...
He has called us to be the real deal, to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him...

What's the first step to really Walking with Jesus?

- We start by remember the He loves us and wants to speak to us...

Step 1

Believe

Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple"
NKJV "Whoever desires to come after me"

Step 2

Begin in God's Word

John 10:27 NKJV

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

The more you get familiar with the word of God the more you will recognize the voice of God in your life...

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

This week:

Spend time each day in God's Word...