

Peter Confesses That Jesus Is the Christ
Dr. Michael A. Cox
Original: 3-10-24

Text: Mark 8:27-30 (see also Matt. 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-21)

Gospel of Mark: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Central Idea of Message: Who does your life, your attitude, your values, your treasures, and your time say that Jesus is?

Introduction: Episode 40. From this point forward Jesus is focused on teaching his twelve disciples, not the multitudes. He has finally been able to retreat from the crowds, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the scribes.

This episode will prove to be a pivotal turning point for the disciples, as one of them, Peter, the first person ever recorded to do so, professes Jesus to be the Christ.

Here is Mark's narrative regarding the identity of Jesus.

I. The Theories of the People of Who Jesus Is (vv. 27-28)

- A. Jesus questions the disciples about the peoples' theories regarding his identity (v. 27)
 - 1. Jesus and the disciples leave Bethsaida where he had just healed a blind man
 - 2. They went to the villages of Caesarea Philippi
 - a) The capital and its subordinate settlements (cf. Lane 287) some twenty-five miles north of Bethsaida in the district of Iturea (cf. Lane 289)
 - b) At the foot of Mount Hermon
 - c) To be distinguished from Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast
 - 3. Along the way, Jesus put a question to the Twelve
 - 4. "Who do people say that I am?"
- B. The answer of the disciples (v. 28)
 - 1. John the Baptist
 - a) Fearless, forerunner of Jesus
 - b) His was a ministry of impending judgment which demanded repentance in preparation for receiving the forgiveness, mercy, and grace to be given by the coming Christ
 - 2. Elijah

- a) Mighty prophet of God
- b) The man who stood against King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel
- 3. One of the prophets: an agent of God's power and messenger of God's will
- 4. Common denominators
 - a) All men
 - b) All godly
 - c) All strong personalities
 - d) All revered
 - e) All mistreated
 - f) All inferior to Jesus
 - g) All gone
 - h) All equally inadequate answers
- 5. **It is important to note that the disciples did not report that anyone from among the many multitudes to whom Jesus had preached and that he had fed were saying that he was the Messiah**

II. **The Theory of the Disciples of Who Jesus Is (vv. 29-30)**

- A. Jesus questions his disciples about their theories regarding his identity (v. 29)
 - 1. As if to say, "What have you learned and discerned?"
 - 2. "But who do you say that I am?"
 - 3. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ"
 - a) Christ (cf. Wessel 693)
 - (1) Anointed with the Spirit of God
 - (2) Chosen by God
 - (3) Consecrated for God's service
 - (4) Endowed with power to accomplish the assigned task
 - b) Impetuous Peter was the first to speak up
 - c) Peter expressed, without hesitation, a personal confession of who he thought Jesus was
 - d) Peter likely expressed the conviction of all twelve of the disciples
 - e) **Peter, the seasoned fisherman, could not have been more accurate when he acknowledged that Jesus was the long-awaited Anointed One, the Christ, the Messiah**

- f) **Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ may well establish him as the first true Christian**
4. It is worth noting that Jesus did not correct Peter, so he affirms Peter's confession as true
- B. Jesus warned the Twelve not to tell anyone about him (v. 30)
1. At this point of his ministry, Jesus still wanted to keep his identity as the Christ veiled
 2. Theologians call this the "Messianic Secret"
 3. But the time for disclosing his identity as the Christ/Messiah was rapidly approaching
 4. The Messiah which popular culture had been groomed to expect was definitely *not* the Messiah Jesus would be
 5. Even the Twelve would get this wrong
 6. Jesus must explain to them what was in store for God's true Messiah, and this would blow their minds, which is one reason his identity needed, for now, to be kept a secret!

Conclusion: Principles.

(1) **Who does your life, your attitude, your values, your treasures, and your time say that Jesus is (v. 27)?**

(2) **Popular opinions regarding the identity of Jesus can be very nice, but very wrong (v. 28).**

(3) **Jesus had healed many, fed many miraculously, cast out demons multiple times, preached to thousands, and had even sent out the Twelve to preach and work miracles in his name, yet, all of these efforts would make very little impact on the majority of the Jews in receiving him as the Christ, the Savior of the world. The problem then, and today, was not not knowing, but not believing (v. 28).**

(4) **What we think about Jesus must be both a personal decision and must result in a personal confession (v. 29).**

(5) **A valid confession of who Jesus is will very likely *not* be in accordance with popular opinion (v. 29).**