

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 25

### Mark 8:31-9:1 Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

#### *Review of previous lesson*

8<sup>27</sup> 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 Predicts His Death*

8<sup>31</sup> 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



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God, / but merely human concerns.”

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

**9** <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, / “Truly I tell you, / some / who are standing here / will not taste death / before they see / that the kingdom of God / has come with power.”

### ***Vocabulary***

1. **To suffer:** To feel pain, to endure something
2. **To reject:** To not accept something. To be unkind
3. **To rebuke:** To reprimand, to tell someone off
4. **To forfeit:** To give something up. Punish,

### ***Questions***

1. What did the public or the Jewish people expect from the Messiah?
2. Jesus is his name. Messiah in Hebrew means *the anointed one*; Christ in Greek means *the anointed one*. He is Jesus, the Christ.
3. Mark 8: 31 Jesus Predicts his Death. What did Jesus predict would happen?

4. Jesus spoke plainly. What does that mean?
5. Peter rebuked Jesus. Did Jesus do this alone, or in front of others? What words did Jesus say?
6. (Verse 34) When Jesus called the crowd to him, what did he tell them?
7. How can we deny ourselves?
8. How can we take up our cross? What is the cross a symbol of?
9. How can we Follow Jesus?
10. (Verse 35) What can you lose by trying to save it? (Your talents, etc.)
11. When will Jesus be ashamed of us?

## **Notes**

### 1. The Ancient Idea of the Messiah:

- Another king, like the great King David, would come and create a strong kingdom.
- God would intervene in history and free the Jews from their occupiers
- Predictions: before the coming of the Messiah the world would have terrible travail or trouble. Earthquakes, wars, destruction, etc., but a Messiah, an intervener from God, would save them.
- Another Elijah, the ancient prophet, would appear as a forerunner of the Messiah. (Could that have been *John the Baptist*?)
- Then the Messiah would come. *Messiah* and *Christ* mean the same thing. *Messiah* is the Hebrew and *Christ* is the Greek for the *Anointed One*.
- The Jews would renovate Jerusalem, or perhaps purify it. Now it means the coming of the Jews to Jerusalem. In 1948,

the United Nations voted to make a Jewish homeland. For many, this signaled the second coming of Christ.

- A new age of peace would come on earth.
2. Jesus came against this background. He was a servant of God, not a fighting warrior. Rome would never tolerate the Messiah. They would kill him as they had any who claimed to be the Messiah.
  3. Jesus told the disciples very plainly that he would suffer and die. Peter tried to make Jesus turn from this, but Jesus knew the truth.
  4. Jesus was also honest about the price of following him. *Take up your cross and follow me daily* is a hard thing to do. Jesus did not offer glory, peace or an easy life.
  5. Any talent a man possesses will require use and development. Lack of exercise means to lose the skill or talent. *Use it or lose it.*
  6. At this point, Jesus seems to still be in Caesarea Philippi, outside the area of Judea. Here he could speak very openly to his disciples, and he was free from the heckling of the Jewish religious fanatics.
  7. When Peter said Jesus was the Messiah, he actually put the life of Jesus and his disciples in danger. Only Augustus Caesar was the ruler, king and god figure. The Messiah, as a warrior king, would bring revolution and unrest. The Roman Empire would not allow that.
  8. When we think of the Messiah, we think of a spiritual leader. At this point, the disciples were holding on to the old ideas of a messiah.

