

A CALL TO FOLLOW

"Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. 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.' 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Christ' Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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 things of God, but the things of men.' Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'"

Mark 8:27-38 (NIV)

❖ Who is Jesus?

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

Mark 8:27 (NIV)

1. Some say JOHN the BAPTIST.

➤ "Today many people make a decision about Jesus based on what others say."

2. Some say ELIJAH or one of the other PROPHETS.

➤ "Some people have determined that Jesus was a great teacher but stop at that."

3. You are the CHRIST.

➤ "Many people are looking for a Jesus that fits what they want, not who He is."

❖ Why Did He Come?

"Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again."

Mark 8:30-31 (NIV)

1. Jesus for the first time clearly EXPLAINS His MISSION.

2. Peter RESPONDS, along with all of the disciples, that is not WHAT they WANT.

"When we argue with God's Word we will open the door for Satan's lies."

3. Jesus then calls Peter a tool of SATAN, because that is what Satan would want also.

"There is a price to be if you are truly going to be a Disciple of Jesus."

❖ What He Expects from Us

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"

Mark 8:34 (NIV)

1. A true disciple must SURRENDER COMPLETELY to Him.

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:26 (NIV)

2. A true disciple must IDENTIFY with Him through SUFFERING and DEATH.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

3. A true disciple must FOLLOW Him wherever He LEADS.

"There is still one thing you lack," Jesus said. 'Sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'"

Luke 18:22 (NLT)