

“The Confession that Counts”
“A Journey With Jesus — Part 14
Mark 8:27-9:13

1. What is the only confession that can save us?

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.

Mark 8:27-30

2. What does it mean to be “the Christ”?

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."

Mark 8:31-33

3. What is the cost of true discipleship?

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." And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Mark 8:34-9:1

The conditions of discipleship:

- We must surrender ourselves completely to Christ.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1

- We must identify with Christ in His 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

- We must follow Christ obediently wherever He leads.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

“Because we live for Christ we will live for others!”

Application: Jesus was instructing men who had already confessed Him as the Son of God. He was not telling them how to be saved or how to go to heaven, but how to invest their lives and make the most of every opportunity. Losing your soul is equal to wasting your life. The opportunities God gives you are the way to make your life count. The reward of true discipleship is that you become more like Jesus.

4. What can true disciples expect?

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

Mark 9:2-10

• The transfiguration displays the sinlessness of Christ.

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

Isaiah 64:6

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

• The transfiguration was a vivid confirmation of the glory of the future kingdom.

...We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

2 Peter 1:16-18

• Moses died and was buried. Elijah was raptured and taken to heaven. When Jesus returns, He will raise the bodies of believers who have died and He will rapture the living believers. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

• Transfiguration describes a change on the outside that comes from the inside. It is the opposite of masquerade, which is merely an outside change.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

5. Putting pieces together!

And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Mark 9:11-13

- John ministered in the "*spirit of Elijah*" and had he been accepted, Jesus would have been accepted. But, there will be a future coming of Elijah.

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Malachi 4:5-6