

**23S03 Mark 8:27-38 (Part 18)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 8:27-38(Part 17) Peter Professes Jesus is the Christ, Jesus teaches about his death, Jesus tells Peter “get behind me satan”, if you follow Jesus you must take up your cross daily.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 8:27-38 (NAS) *<sup>27</sup>Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>They told Him, saying, “John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And He continued questioning them: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And He warned them to tell no one about Him. <sup>31</sup>And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise from the dead. <sup>32</sup>And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup>But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's purposes, but on man's.” <sup>34</sup>And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>For what could a person give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

**Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Okay before we get started, Jesus is going back and forth across the sea Galilee. He was in Sidon and Tyre to the Northeast of the Sea of Galilee, then Decapolis on the southeast of the sea, then we think he was on the eastside of the sea in Dalmanutha and then back to the northeast side of the sea to Bethsaida. And now Jesus is farther to the north in Caesarea Philippi. Please remember most of us view these and sequential chronological events but they don't have to be. We have no way of knowing how much time has passed between Bethsaida and Caesarea Philippi. We cannot be certain if this happened after verse 26 or before or even much later. The account in the bible is not trying to show us a daily itinerary. The Bible authors are telling the story of Jesus' life but not necessarily is in purely chronological. Just keep that in mind. Regardless, it would have been a long walk from Bethsaida to Caesarea Philippi about 30 miles.



Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 8:27-30 (NAS) *<sup>27</sup>Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>And He continued questioning them: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup>And He warned them to tell no one about Him.*

This is the first account in the gospel of Mark, where Jesus engages his disciples about who he really is. Peter sums it up, Jesus is the Christ. The anointed one of God. God in the flesh. Immanuel, God with us. In Matthew 16:16-17 (NAS) says *<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.* So, Jesus gives Peter a great complement here.

Then in Mark 8:31-32a (NAS) *<sup>31</sup>And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise from the dead. <sup>32</sup>And He was stating the matter plainly.* This is not the first time Jesus has told his disciple he will be killed and raised on the third day. But we know from the other gospels, his disciples did not understand.

Mark 8:32-33 (NAS) *<sup>32</sup>And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup>But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's purposes, but on man's."*

This is a dramatic shift in the tone of the conversation from you are blessed Peter, to get behind me satan, Peter. What just happened. Peter had the audacity to tell God what to do. If you are working against God's plan, you are a satan. Satan means the

adversary of God. Did Peter mean well, probably but by only from man's perspective, from God's point of view Peter was being a satan or against God's plan.

Next Mark 8:34-35 (NAS) *<sup>34</sup>And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

I believe these are some of the most misunderstood scriptures. Ignore the specific words for a moment and see what Jesus is trying to say. If you try to control your own life you will fail, if you surrender everything to Jesus and follow Jesus, then you have true life, abundant satisfying life. But it will be hard sometimes, you will have trouble sometimes, but if you trust Jesus, it will all work out okay.

Next Mark 8:36-37 (NAS) *<sup>36</sup>For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>For what could a person give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

Jesus explains how and why. If we pursue things on earth like money, fame, success what does it really benefit you in the end if you lose your soul. If you act like you are ashamed of Jesus here and now, then Jesus will treat you the same way in front of God the Father. Which should we care more about. What God thinks of us or what other people think of us? We have to answer this question and there is only one good answer.

Let's review.

- 1) Who is Jesus? The people in Jesus' day knew Jesus was special but few recognized Jesus as God or even the Christ. But the disciple did.
- 2) Get behind me satan? Wow, did you hear that. If you are not working for God's plan, then you are working against God's plan. If you are against God, then you are a satan. An adversary of God. I don't want to hear Jesus tell me, "Get behind me satan"
- 3) Lose your life? This is not really about life or death or is it. If you spend your life doing things for you, focused on you. Then you are in danger. Jesus is reminding us that it's not about us, it's about Jesus. Surrender everything to Jesus now, then he will save your soul.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this today. Get behind me satan. This phrase has puzzled me for many years, only recently have I truly understood. There are only two options in life. Follow Jesus or something else. You are either on the side of Jesus or you are not. There are no gray areas. Jesus is the only way, so you have to follow Jesus, or you are headed somewhere else.

What does this mean for you? Everyday you need to wake up and reaffirm. Lord, I trust you. Help me to follow you. Every night you need to pray, Lord I trust you, help me to follow you. And every moment in between. When you are weak pray for strength, when you are frustrated, pray for peace. In everything and in every moment put God first. It's not about you. It's about Jesus. Our lives are much better when we keep our focus on Jesus and what He wants us to do. Jesus will guide us if we will just surrender control to him and stop worrying about things like food or money. God knows we need these things. Trust God.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.