

### **The Cost of Following Jesus (Mark 8:27-38)**

- From now on, Mark's theology has the dynamic of the cross in focus
- A turning point of the Gospel & from it all move toward Jerusalem & the cross
- The text centered around Peter's profession of Christ & explains what it meant for Jesus to be the Messiah & what it means & is required to be identified with Him
- As such, it is of the greatest practical importance because it tells us what we must profess & believe about Christ & embrace for ourselves to be his disciples

#### **I. The Disciples Confess Christ (Mark 8: 27-33)**

- Initiative for this immortal confession belongs to Jesus' question & answer (27,28)
- The average person in the street thought all He was, was a good teacher
- Getting their attention, he asked a 2<sup>nd</sup> question (vs.29a) "Who do you say I am?"
- Predictably Peter answered for them all: "You are the Christ" (vs.29b)
- Jesus wanted to hear that. Matthew records His joyous response (Matt 16:17-19)
- This meant the disciples understood Jesus to be the long awaited Savior of Israel
- He was David's son who would restore power to Israel & rule over the world
- Peter said it & all believed Messiah to be a political figure reigning from Jerusalem
- Seeing his disciples eager assent, he forbid them to speak about His identity (31)
- He then taught them about His sufferings, crucifixion & resurrection (vs.31, 32)
- Peter responded on behalf of the others, taking him aside & rebuking Jesus for this
- Jesus responds to Peter, Get behind me Satan- you know not the things of God (33)
- Peter unwittingly was being used by Satan to tempt Jesus as before (Matt 4:10)

#### **II. The Disciples' Pattern of Life (Mark 8: 34-38)**

- If any one would come after Christ that means, a call to be crucified (vs. 34)
- This does not mean that our crosses can be any difficulty we face in our lives
- Bearing our cross means specifically that we walk in His steps, embracing His life
- Confessing Christ means we embrace a paradox (35) losing our lives, we gain them
- Nothing could be more opposed to the narcissistic spirit of the age we are living in
- Embracing the life of the Cross is hard but it brings with it great eternal rewards
- We must confess Christ as the suffering Messiah & Savior, we must live like Him
- Jesus said it well: vs38 "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words ... of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father..."