

Title: Follow Jesus, the Christ

Passage: Mark 8:27-9:1

Introduction

Question: What are the terms and conditions for following Christ?

EXPOSITION

Passage - Acknowledgements

1. Jesus acknowledges that He is the Christ and He will go to the cross
2. If someone wants to follow Him, they need to follow the same route as well

Mark 8:27-30

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

Christ = the Promised One

- OT prophets consistently predicted a Messiah who will bring about true justice on the earth.

Misperception

- Christ as a conquering savior (not a saving savior)

Application

- Do we similarly view God as a means to accomplish our personal agendas rather than submission to His lordship whatever it may be?

Mark 8:31

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 again. And he said this plainly.

- Shift in message and in the Gospel of Mark: Jesus would begin and continue to make clear He would die

Passage: What must the Son of Man do?

- Suffer
- Rejected
- Killed
- Rise from the dead

Son of Man

- Term used over 80 times in the Gospels
- Meaning: refers to His divinity
- How? Points to Old Testament prophecies on how describe the "Son of Man"

Daniel 7:13-14

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- Son of man = Messiah = the Promised One
 - Has dominion and power over all things

the Son of Man must suffer many things

- new idea for Jewish audience that Son of Man would suffer
 - rather thought Ruler would defeat evil on earth
- Previously: Son of Man would rule but not through suffering

Must suffer many things..and be killed.

- absolute necessity
- Redemption and recreation cannot occur without Jesus' death
- Why must Jesus die? Two reasons:
 - God's justice
 - God's love

Why Jesus had to die? Two key reasons/attributes of God:

I. God's justice

- Perfection of God
 - Implications: no imperfection can be in God's presence

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Sin: every person is sinful and imperfect.
- Your good deeds are never enough. Sin's stain and effect always makes you imperfect before God.

James 2:10-11

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

- Sin always requires a punishment

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why does Jesus have to be killed by the religious leaders (vs. others)?

- shows how corrupt the human system of justice is.
- In condemning Jesus, an injustice was done.

II. God's love

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- At the cross, God's justice and love met (He considered us both unworthy and worthy)

Matthew 20:28

even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Belief in Jesus = salvation

Acts 16:31

And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Romans 10:13

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Mark 8:32

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

- Jesus made clear that the Messiah was to suffer but the Jews could not conceive that.
- They disregarded Old Testament prophecies that made clear the Messiah was supposed to die and suffer despite clear references:

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Psalms 22:6-7

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

Zechariah 12:10

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Rebuke

- like a parent to a child
- Why Rebuke? Disciples thought Messiah was going to rescue Israel from Roman rule and make things circumstantially better
- Misperception: see Jesus as a means to a better life
- Application: Do we view God as a means to improve our circumstances or better our earthly life?

Mark 8:33

But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

- Satan = under the influence of Satan = earthly thoughts
 - How to improve earthly status /get earthly kingdoms

Matthew 4:8-9

Again, the devil took [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

APPLICATION

Do you really believe in the Biblical Jesus?

- not merely a "Jesus" that you perceive
- Do you believe Jesus as the Son of God who died on the cross and rose again?
- Do you believe God is in control of every details of your life and sometimes allows trials so you can see Him in a different way?
 - God may ordain things from eternity past for a reason;
- Remember two key truths:
 - God is good
 - Though you may not understand or have an answer, God has it
 - God is sovereign/in control

God is sovereign - even over the certainty of Jesus' crucifixion.

Acts 2:36

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 4:10-11

let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

God is sovereign over our lives

Acts 17:26-27

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.

On our road to glory, it will be filled with suffering.

- Any growth process will involve suffering.
- Suffering is not an option.
- But suffering brings transformation - see Peter's life:

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:19

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

- suffering will bring you closer to Christ and allow you to see Him more clearly that wouldn't have seen otherwise.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- all suffering is meaningful

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- God is always with you.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- all is for eternal good and eternal glory