

Who is Jesus? (Part 2)

Mark 8:27-33

I. Understanding Jesus' Identity: He is the Messiah sent from God (Mark 8:27-30).

A. Majority View: A Safe Religious View of Jesus (8:27-28).

- The disciples reported that most people believed that Jesus was a prophet who had come back to life.
- Most people want Jesus to be just a good religious man.

B. Minority View: A Radical Declaration of Deity (8:29-30).

- Peter declared that Christ was really the eternal Messiah sent from God
- Few people want Jesus to be God – the ultimate authority and only way of salvation come to earth.
- Context: The Jews wanted the Messiah, but they were expecting earthly, political help, not spiritual salvation.

II. Understanding Jesus' Purpose: He came to die for our sin and rise again (Mark 8:31-33).

A. Jesus revealed to the disciples that He must die and rise again (8:31).

B. When Peter objected to His death, Jesus rebuked him for viewing Christ selfishly for his purposes instead of God's eternal purposes (8:32-33).

- Context: Peter (and other Jews) were thinking of the Messiah only in terms of His glory, not His suffering.
- "Satan" – Peter was expressing Satan's viewpoint which would be for Jesus to avoid dying on the cross for sin.

What we learn from this passage:

1. That Jesus really is God's eternal Son.
2. That Christ came first of all to die for our sin and rise again. We must put our faith in Him to have eternal life (John 3:16; 8:24; 20:31; Acts 10:43; 16:31; Ephesians 2:8,9).
3. That we must focus our life on God's priorities for us and not just expect God to solve all of our earthly problems.