

**“You Are the Messiah”**

1. **What That Truth Means for Jesus**
2. **What That Truth Means for Us**

*Exchange between Peter and Jesus*

- “Who do people say I am?” What Jesus asks disc in Gospel. “Who am; what saying re me?” “Well, Jesus: certainly made name for self. Talking re you in streets. Herod had spooky idea: you’re JB raised from dead. And since Elijah taken to heaven whirlwind, some wonder if you’re Elijah returned. And obvly people see you as powerful prophet.” “Okay, that’s what they say. But **vs. 29a.**”
- Isn’t that really the question of Xianity?! Who really is this Jesus? Is Jesus: eccentric rabbi with unconventional teachings, made enemies in high places; madman, started cultic following; misunderstood prophet, or political revolutionary, or figment of history’s imagination? People think such things, even today. And to this day, Jesus still asks all us: **vs. 29a.**
- I trust we would all answer same way Peter did. With simple confidence, Peter said: **vs. 29b.** “Jesus, everything that’s written in Scr re God’s promised, coming Savior – Jesus, that’s you! I believe you are Savior of mankind! You are the Messiah!” And I trust we’d all say same thing.

*“You Are the Messiah” – What That Truth Means for Jesus*

- And yet that great truth – that Jesus is, in fact, Messiah – that truth has profound implications: both for Jesus and for us. First, just listen to what it means for Jesus that he is Messiah. **Vs. 31ab.** That’s what being Messiah meant for Jesus: must be killed. Thing is: he knows it; knows exactly what facing! Here in Mk 8, Jesus making way to Jerusalem for last time; purposefully heading for city of death. This was his mission, what came earth to do. And here we see him on his way to do it.
- Just imagine burden on his heart, weight he was carrying. Being Messiah, for Jesus, meant crown thorns, Roman whip, hatred of man, wrath of God, poured out on innocent for guilty. Being Messiah meant bearing a cross, suffering death on a cross.
- Very different from how world viewed Messiah. In Jesus’ day, many people thought Messiah: political ruler, overthrow Romans. Peter must’ve felt same way. **Vs. 32-33.** Peter didn’t want a Messiah who’d suffer, die on a cross. But that’s what meant for Jesus to be Messiah. **Vs. 31b.**
- But one more part: **vs. 31c.** Seems like discs missed that last part; but we cannot miss it. Staring down torture and death, Jesus also knew he would be raised from dead, win victory, and accomplish his mission. Saw big picture, understood God’s plan. And so his heart driven by passionate zeal to suffer cross, and come back to life, in order to save us. Peter was right: “Jesus, you are the Messiah!” And what that truth means for Jesus: not being some ruler on earth, but Lamb of God who takes away sin of world by his death on cross, res from dead.

*“You Are the Messiah” – What That Truth Means for Us*

- But what does that truth (that Jesus is, in fact, Messiah) mean for us? We Xians have tendency sometimes to think that bec we are Xians, things should be better for us; life should be easier for us; God should bless us more abundantly. Makes sense, right? After all: we follow Jesus. And so (we assume) Jesus would/should never let bad things happen to us, right? Today Jesus seriously challenges that notion. Now listen to what Jesus says it means for us that he is the Messiah: **vs. 34b.**
- That completely turns upside down this idea that being Xian makes life easier. Here Jesus actually says that if you believe in him, follow him: your life, from earthly point view, will be worse! Unbelievers will have it better than you, Jesus says, bec as a Xian, you will suffer hardship and bear the cross. **Vs. 34b.** Following Jesus means self-denial and cross-bearing.
- But what that really mean? Could think of it this way: when pray Lord’s Prayer, we say “Your will be done.” So Lord has his good, gracious, perfect will – what he wants for our lives, which is always

best. In contrast: we have our own, sinful will – what we want, which not always best. When Jesus says that Xians must deny selves, take up cross, what really saying: Xians must pray “Your will be done,” put Lord’s will first, trust his will is best.

- But that’s really hard thing do, bec in our sinful nature, we want our will to be done. We want God to do things our way; want him follow our plan; want tell God what to do; and we get angry at God when he doesn’t do what we want him to do. Just look at Peter: gets mad at Jesus for talking about dying on cross, bec that’s not what Peter wants. So Jesus rebukes (even calls him Satan); why? Bec Peter putting his will above God’s will.
- And so it is with us: so many times in life, something bad happens to us (not trivializing: could be death, disease, or some devastating tragedy happens to us) – faced with two options: handle it like Peter, or like Jesus. Peter said: “My friend, die on cross; no way; God, bad idea!” That’s “self.” Jesus said: “Suffer, die on cross – yes Lord, I will humbly submit to you; may your will be done, bec I trust your will is best.” That’s denying self!
- And so, my friends, see: following Jesus as Messiah for us means praying “Your will be done” and means trusting that God does have good, gracious plan/will for us in our lives. That plan may involve much happiness, joy; may involve setback, heartache. But no matter what, God’s plan is a good plan, plan of love for us as his children, plan meant to guide us to heaven. **Jer 29:11**. And today, here, Jesus is teaching you (no matter what happens to you in life) to trust in his plan/will, and to silence your own. My will or God’s? His must be better. **Vs. 34b**. Therefore following Jesus means: silencing the sinful self within us, bearing whatever crosses God places into our lives, praying “Your will be done,” and humbly trusting God’s plan/will for us.
- Guarantee you: the sinful self bristles at thought of cross bearing. I don’t want bear a cross. But I do want following Jesus. And my strength for bearing my own cross comes from seeing Jesus bear his cross. And so I look back to Good Friday, and I see him trudging along road to Golgatha, carrying instrument of his death. And I see him doing it all for me! He suffered and died, for me! He did not call down 12 legions of angels to stop the whole thing, for me! He submitted to his Father’s good, gracious, perfect will, for me! The cross he bore means I’m forgiven, redeemed, child of God, heir of eternal life – he bore the cross for me, and for you!

### *Conclusion*

- So **vs. 29a**. How you answer that question determines your eternity. I trust we would answer the same way Peter did: **vs. 29b**. That truth (that Jesus is Messiah), has profound implication, both for Jesus and for us. For Jesus, it means bearing a cross; for us it means bearing a cross, too. But after the cross, for Jesus, came salvation. And after all our crosses have been carried, salvation will be ours, as well. That’s what having Jesus as the Messiah means for us.

### **Mark 8:27-35**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” <sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He [Jesus] then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He [Jesus] spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> 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 concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.