

Theme: To encounter Jesus the King is to follow a crucified Messiah — and to take up a cross of your own.

## I. Intro - Continental Divide

- A. Our trip out West - hitting the continental divide
- B. Everything changes - all water flows in a different direction on each side
- C. Mark 8:27-38 - continental divide in Mark's Gospel
- D. The two sections of the Gospel
  - 1. Mark 1:1-8:30 - Who is Jesus? - The King!
  - 2. Mark 8:31-end - Why did Jesus come? - To Die!
- E. 8:31 - 10:52 - journey to Jerusalem - to die!
  - 1. The whole section is on a journey, which we eventually discover is to Jerusalem
  - 2. Jesus announces His impending death 3 times - Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34

## II. The Divide - A Shocking Revelation!

- A. Jesus boldly teaches on the Son of Man (not Christ)

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. <sup>32</sup> And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. Mark 8:31-32

  - 1. Jesus is teaching after Peter's confession
    - a. The disciples know Jesus is the Messianic King!
    - b. They expect He will take power, crush God's enemies, and reign in power!
  - 2. Jesus calls Himself the Son of Man, not Messiah

## 3. Messiah/Christ has too many misconceptions

- a. The common conception of A Conquering King

How fine is the King, the Messiah, who will arise from those of the house of Judah! He girds his loins and goes forth and sets up the ranks of battle against his enemies and kills the kings together with their commanders and no king and commander can stand before him. He reddens the mountains with the blood of their slain and his garments are dipped in blood. - Targum Yerushalmi on Genesis 49:11
  - b. This was what almost everyone expected of the Messiah/Christ - He would destroy Rome and all enemies of God!
  - c. No wonder Jesus did not like to use this title!
- B. Jesus boldly teaches - He must suffer and die!
- 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. <sup>32</sup> And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. Mark 8:31-32
- 1. Jesus teaches that He must suffer and be rejected
    - a. Rather than conquering He will suffer many things!
    - b. Rather than being crowned, He will be rejected!
    - c. He will not be rejected by the Romans but by the Sanhedrin - elders, chief priests, teachers of the law
    - d. Just as He has been rejected in Galilee, so He will be tested and rejected in Jerusalem!
      - 1. Rejected (ἀποδοκιμάζω) - regard as unworthy & reject; reject as counterfeit
      - 2. Often used in quoting of Psalm 118:22

Have you not read this Scripture "The stone that the builders **rejected** has become the cornerstone Mk 12:10

As you come to him, a living stone **rejected** by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious...<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders **rejected** has become the cornerstone," 1 Peter 2:4, 7

3. No wonder Peter brought up the rejection of Jesus by men, but His exaltation by the Father!
2. Jesus teaches that He must be put to death!
  - a. He won't just suffer - He will be put to death!
  - b. He won't crush others; He will be crushed!
  - c. The hills won't run red with the blood of others; Golgotha will run red with His blood!
3. Jesus teaches that He will rise again from the dead!
  - a. He will die - but He will live again!
  - b. He will rule and reign - through the resurrection!
  - c. Glory will be His - but only after the cross!
  - d. But the disciples seem to have gone deaf before this point! All they seem to hear is He must die!
4. Jesus spoke boldly and plainly that He must die first
  - a. No parable - He spoke boldly and plainly (παρηρησία)
  - b. The only time this word is used in the synoptic Gospels - to speak boldly and plainly
  - c. He repeated this 3x - Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34
  - d. One can't misunderstand what He was saying!
5. Jesus said this **MUST** happen
  - a. This was not a possibility; it was a necessity!
  - b. δεῖ - it is necessary; it must happen

- c. Ultimately, Jesus did not die because of an accident but rather in fulfillment of God's will as revealed in the Old Testament - the Messiah had to die and then be raised.

### III. The Divide - The Way of the Cross

- A. Peter rebukes Jesus for saying this!

And he said this plainly. **And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.** Mark 8:32-33

  1. Peter thinks he understands the Messiah's future better than Jesus does!
  2. Peter actually rebukes Jesus - a strong word often used when Jesus rebukes and silences demons!
  3. The disciple has forgotten his place and thinks he knows better than the Master!
  4. This is due to Peter's prior ideas about the Messiah.
    - a. A study of Americans and Mexicans where a photo of a baseball player was flashed to one eye and a photo of a bullfighter to the other. The Americans only saw a baseball player, and the Mexicans only saw a bull-fighter!
    - b. Often, we see what we expect to see, not reality!
    - c. This is happening to Peter - his preconceptions about what it meant to be Messiah are overwhelming his knowledge that Jesus actually is the Messiah - and has said He must suffer and die!
  5. A free tip - NEVER correct or rebuke Jesus!
- B. Jesus rebukes Satan - who is speaking through Peter!

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 things of God, but the things of men." Mark 8:33

1. Jesus looks at the other disciples - why?
  - a. They probably thought the same thing as Peter!
  - b. Perhaps the disciples were not sure, and Jesus wanted to prevent any misunderstanding.
2. Jesus rebukes Peter and speaks to Satan!
  - a. Rebuke - the same word as for Peter's actions!
  - b. But He speaks to Satan, "Get behind me!"
  - c. Peter is not just mistaken - he has been duped and used by Satan!
  - d. Jesus recognizes this as the same temptation in the wilderness - the crown without the cross, glory without suffering!
  - e. He resolutely refuses the Satanic temptation and sets His face to obey His Father, even if it means suffering and death.
3. This Satanic way is "the things of men."
  - a. Satan's way does not seem like a horror movie - it makes perfect sense to fallen humans!
  - b. Surely God would not want His Son, the Messianic King, to suffer at the hands of wicked man! Surely He would not want Him to die!
  - c. The way of the cross is a foolish stumbling block to fallen humans - but it is God's way!

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... <sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Cor. 1:18, 22-24

4. Humans are always tempted to a theology of glory, but only a theology of the cross can repair and restore the cosmic treason of sin!

### C. Walking the way of the cross

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and 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 me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:34-37

1. The way of the Messiah is the way for His followers!
2. ANYONE who wants to walk with Jesus must deny himself, take up the cross, and follow Jesus.
3. The way of the cross is the way of self-denial
  - a. One can not follow Jesus apart from self-denial
  - b. This is not denying things to myself; it is the very denial of my self, my own desires, my own identity, to take up the identity and desires of the Kingdom.
  - c. This runs directly counter to our age, where the purpose of life is self-fulfillment, finding, embracing, and expressing my "authentic self"!
4. The way of the cross is experiencing the same rejection and suffering that Jesus did!
  - a. Again, the call is to follow Jesus! He walked the way of the cross, and received suffering, rejection, and even death - and disciples must expect the same.
  - b. The way of the cross is utterly contrary to fallen humanity and our culture - and taking up our cross will often lead to misunderstanding, accusation, and rejection.

- c. Like Peter, we prefer a theology of glory rather than a theology of the cross - for it is painful!
5. The way of the cross is the way to true life!
- a. Paradoxically, the way of the cross is the path to life!
  - b. Paradoxically, life is found by giving up my own life!
  - c. The way of the cross leads to true life now and glory and reward in eternity, while rejecting the way of the cross leads to diminished life now and eternal shame!

#### IV. Applying the Word

##### A. Do I see the way of Jesus is the Cross?

1. Jesus declared this plainly and repeatedly!
2. Peter rejected this idea, but was following Satan!
3. His words were the same as the temptation in the wilderness - avoid the way of the cross!
4. But the way of Jesus is the way of the Cross!
5. He brings salvation not by crushing the enemies of God but dying at their hands so He might save them
6. The Church has always been tempted to reject Jesus and the way of the cross for a theology of glory and the way of power - but this is to follow Satan!
7. To believe in Christ is to believe in His death, burial, and resurrection for salvation!
8. This is also the way for all disciples!
9. Jesus does not present this as the way for a select few "super-saints" - if ANYONE would come after Me!

10. This is utterly contrary to our fallen nature and to our culture, which promotes self-seeking, self-promotion, and comfort rather than the way of the Cross!

11. We are told life is found in embracing my desires, my will, and my way, but Jesus says this actually brings death, not life!

12. Is there any area where the Spirit is convicting me that God's call right now is to turn from some sin, to break with the world, and to embrace the way of Jesus?

13. Listen to the Spirit and let Him work as we come to the Table!

##### B. The Table of the Kingdom

1. Here we remember our deepest need - and Jesus' great deliverance for us!
2. Here we are reminded of the way of the Cross!
3. Here we are strengthened to embrace the way of the Cross
4. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 confession

#### Encountering Jesus the King Who Came to Die

Mark 8:31-38

October 22, 2023

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Christology; Biblical characters; cross; discipleship

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

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. <sup>32</sup> And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> 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."

<sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would 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 profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:31-38