

PETER'S CONFESSION OF CHRIST

Mark 8:22-38

Key Verse 8:29

* JESUS OPENS THE EYES OF A BLIND MAN (22-26)

1. Read verses 22-23. When Jesus and his disciples came to Bethsaida what did some people beg Jesus to do? What is the agony of a blind man? What did Jesus do to heal him? Why?
2. Read verses 24-26. Describe the stages of this man's healing. What does this event teach us about Jesus? (Ps 146:8) What spiritual lessons can we learn here?

* WHO JESUS IS (27-30)

3. Where did Jesus and his disciples go from there? What question did Jesus ask them? What was their answer? What does this tell us about people's general view of Jesus? Why did the people think like this? (By contrast, what was people's general view of the Pharisees?)
4. What was Jesus' second question? (29a) What kind of answer does this question require? How did Peter answer? What does "the Christ" mean? (Jn 1:3-4)
5. What did it mean to Peter, personally, that he made this confession of faith? (1Jn 2:15) Why is it important to confess one's faith in Christ? (Ro 10:10; Mt 16:17-19)

* WHAT JESUS DID (31-33)

6. After hearing Peter's confession, what did Jesus teach his disciples? How would Jesus become the Messiah? (31; Isa 53:4,5; Ac 2:24)
7. How did Peter respond to Jesus' teaching? (32,33) Why was it hard for him to accept? What shows that this was not easy for them to understand? (Mk 9:31; 10:33,34) How did Jesus rebuke Peter? Why did he use such strong language?

* BASIS PRINCIPLES FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (34-38)

8. Read verse 34. Who did Jesus include in these instructions? What must one who would follow Jesus do first? What does this mean? (Gal 5:24; 2:20)
9. Read verse 34 again. What does it mean to take up one's cross? (Think about Jesus.) What burden is far heavier than the cross of mission that Jesus gives us? (Read verses 35-37) How do you answer the questions Jesus asks in these verses?
10. Read verse 38. What does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus? What promise and what assurance can those who follow Jesus have? How can we who live in an adulterous and sinful generation live lives that acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Christ? Why must we?