

WHO IS JESUS TODAY?

Mark 8:27-33

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The Lord performed many miracles in many places before countless eye witnesses who even knew some of those who were healed and even raised from the dead. As Jesus and His disciples were walking He asked them "who do people think I am?" There were many opinions about Jesus with most of them being positive. What are the opinions about Jesus today?

I. COUNTLESS HAVE A GOOD OPINION ABOUT JESUS WHO DO NOT EVEN KNOW HIM (vv26-28)

1. Almost everyone thought Jesus was a very good, godly, great man, even a great prophet, perhaps a resurrected prophet, maybe like Elijah or Jeremiah, a prophet come back from the dead.
2. As Jesus and His Gospel were commonly misunderstood then, so it is even today.
 - Everyone today knows the name of "Jesus Christ," countless go to church and acknowledge the Christmas story and the Easter story and remember and honor Him, yet there are really very few who know Him.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Godhood.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Incarnation.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Substitution.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Satisfaction.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Priesthood.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Exaltation.
 - They don't know the meaning of His Intercession.
 - Very few people know who He is, what He did, or why He did it.

II. TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW, BELIEVE AND CONFESS THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST (vv29-30)

1. Peter made his confession about Jesus when Jesus had little earthly goods, little honor, little power, little majesty, little wealth, little influence, in opposition to the thoughts of the many religious leaders all around them.
 - Peter's faith was not shaken by opposition for he believed that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed Christ.
 - The Promised Messiah.
 - The Prophet like Moses.
 - The Priest like Melchizedek.
 - The King like David.
 - The Son of God.
- Peter believed the record God had given Jesus and he boldly confessed Jesus and his faith in Him.
2. Believers today need to follow Peter's example.
 - Be prepared to confess Jesus Christ, even when/if compelled to do outside the Christian world.
 - Acts 2:36; 4:11-12; Hebrews 13:7-12

III. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO DO WHAT HE DID TO BECOME THE SUBSTITUTE (v31)

1. Jesus gave a full declaration of His coming death and resurrection as the sinner's Substitute.
 - How strange it must have sounded for the disciples thought Jesus was about to establish a great Jewish empire over the world.

2. Jesus used the word "MUST," so why MUST these things be done? Because God, the Father said so.
 - Decreed by God the Father.
 - Declared in the Scriptures.
 - Demanded by the Law.
 - Desired by Jesus Christ Himself. *"...With desire have I desired to eat this supper with you..."*
3. Jesus spoke all these things openly, in plain language, not some type of code nor big sounding words. Anytime Jesus spoke to His disciples, He used plain, clear speech. (As Every True Prophet Does).

IV. EVERY BELIEVER HAS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, FAITH AND UNBELIEF AND KNOWLEDGE AND IGNORANCE (vv32-33)

1. Peter spoke and acted out of love and zeal in his remarks to Jesus.
 - He was telling Jesus not to worry about the religious leaders, he'd take care of them and he wasn't going to let anything happen to Jesus.
2. Jesus rebuked Peter very strongly.
 - The best of believers are but poor, fallible, sinful people.
 - As long as the believer is in this world, his/her highest attainments of knowledge is but ignorance.
 - Let no believer think high thoughts of him/herself.
 - Let every believer be charitable and gracious toward those who make mistakes.
 - Galatians 6:1

CONCLUSION:

1. The attitude of Jesus today is much the same as it was in the days Jesus walked this earth.
2. Countless know about Jesus, but don't know Jesus, personally.
3. Every believer (as every human being) has his/her strengths, weaknesses, degrees of faith and unbelief and knowledge and ignorance.
 - Sometimes he/she speaks before thinking, sometimes he/she does not.
4. Every believer must be ready to stand up and speak up for Jesus, explaining the real purpose for Jesus coming in the first place and the reason for His dying and the fact that He was resurrected and lives today and one can have eternal life only by what Jesus came to do and believing in Him.