

CONFESSING AND FOLLOWING JESUS THE KING

Mark 8:27–9:1

Key Verse: 8:34

In this passage we learn that, in order to be members of his kingdom, Jesus the King requires us to make a confession of faith in him and to follow him in the way of the cross.

- CONFESSING JESUS THE KING (27–30)

(Note how Jesus, through his ministry, had been revealing to his disciples who he really was: 1:27; 4:39–41; 5:40–42; 6:41–43, 48–51; 7:37; 8:7–8.)

1. Find Caesarea Philippi on a map (27a). What two questions did Jesus ask his disciples there, and how are they different? (27b–29a) What was people's general view of Jesus? (28; 6:14–15) In what way was it favorable, yet how was it limited?
2. How did Peter answer Jesus' personal question? (29b) What does the word "Christ" mean? (Isa9:6–7) What does it mean to make this confession, and why is it necessary for each of us, especially in our pluralistic world? (Ro10:9; cf. Jn20:28–29,31)

- FOLLOWING JESUS THE KING (8:31–9:1)

3. How did Jesus explain how he would become the Christ? (31; Isa53:10; Lk24:26) What does Peter's reaction show about him? (32) How was Satan tempting Jesus through Peter? (33a) Why was Peter vulnerable to Satan's work? (33b) What are "the things of God"? (31) What can we learn here about how not to deviate from the way of the cross?
4. What does Jesus' repeated use of "anyone" and "whoever" imply? (34–38) Read verse 34. What are the three unconditional requirements to be Jesus' disciples? How are they related? Ultimately, why did Jesus take up his own cross? (Mk10:45) How can we deny ourselves, take up our own crosses and follow him? (Gal5:24; Mk14:36; 1Pe2:21)
5. What promise and warning does Jesus give? (35) To follow Jesus' way of the cross, what must we value most? (36–37) Why might we be tempted to be ashamed of Jesus and his words? How can we "taste" the glory of the kingdom of God? (8:38–9:1; Heb12:2–3)