

Series: Book of Mark
Sermon title: Who do you say that I am?
Scripture: Mark 8:27-33
November 19, 2017
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
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It's been a while since we have been in the book of Mark. We have been going through the book slowly since last September, with breaks in between.

Now, we return to Mark's gospel as we head toward the Advent season and the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

If you recall, Mark's gospel is probably the first account written of the life of Jesus. It is Peter's eyewitness account written down by Mark. His audience is Roman Christians in the first century.

Mark's book is not primarily on the teachings of Jesus, but the powerful account of who he is and why he came.

Mark starts out his book on Jesus with a clear statement:

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

There is a lot in that one statement and I won't go through it, since we did back in September.

What I want to point out is this: Mark gives Jesus a title in that first line.....he calls Jesus the...“**Christ**”.

Then in chapters 1-8 we see him lay out the history of Jesus’ life in, not in detail but in summary.

Who is this Jesus? Everyone is trying to figure it out.

- **John the Baptist** proclaims who he is in the beginning.
- **God the Father and the Holy Spirit** supernaturally show up and say that Jesus is the beloved Son of God.
- The **demons** recognize Jesus and scream out in fear calling him, ‘the Holy One of God’ and ‘Jesus, Son of the Most High God’.
- **King Herod** thinks he is John the Baptist reincarnated.
- **The religious leaders** think he is a demon possessed man doing tricks.
- **His family** thinks he has a mental illness.
- **The crowds** don’t know WHO he is...but he gives out free food and free healthcare, so you can’t help but like him.
- He chooses **12 followers** and they don’t get it either. Just when you think they understand who he is, they say something that shows they... DON’T get it.

Who is this man Jesus????

Well, today we come to the turning point of the book.

We stopped here for a reason a while back.
From here onwards, the book is quickly headed to
Jerusalem and the cross.

Turn in your Bible to Mark 8:27. We will read verses
27-30.

[**Read: Mark 8:27-30**]

You see in this passage that there are all kinds of
rumors swirling about who Jesus is.

Some believe like Herod, that John the Baptist has been
magically reincarnated.

Some believe Elijah, that great prophet of Israel who
ascended into heaven on a chariot of fire has come
back.

Some believe he's some other prophet.

No one *unique*...just someone else, reappearing.

Jesus asks his disciples a straightforward and pointed
question.

He has done so many things in their presence to prove
who he is...but they haven't seen clearly.

Just like the blind man in the passage before this one....they still see him with blurred vision 'like trees walking'...not clearly.

They need Jesus to touch them again.

“Who do you say that I am?”

THE CHRIST.

You are the CHRIST.

In Mark 1:1, we see him called Christ. It doesn't appear again until now in Mark 8:29.

It only shows up 7x in Mark.

What does Christ mean?

Christos, the Greek word means 'anointed one'.

The Hebrew word is ***Messiah***.

Jesus the Christ...or Jesus Christ.

or Jesus the Messiah.

Peter says, "You are the Messiah." "You are the anointed one of God from scripture."

We don't anoint people very much today, so what is the significance of this term.

There were 3 people who were anointed (or had oil poured on their heads) in the Old Testament.

Prophets- Priests- Kings-

It was a way to show that this person has been set apart by the authority of God for a specific task.

Yet the scriptures pointed to a *mysterious* special person who would come -

who would be a better **prophet** than Moses,
a better **priest** than Melchizedek,
a better **king** than David.

This *Servant of the Lord* would rule and make everything right. And people had all kinds of ideas about who it would be and what he would be like.

Illustration: Kind of like today when we think of the anti-christ. The Bible has something to say about this world ruler who is going to be raised up on the earth and deceive a lot of people...there are all kinds of ideas that people have about this 'person'.

In a similar way...people believed the Messiah would one day come, but had all kinds of ideas about what he would be like and what he would come to do.

Is Jesus the Messiah?

As you recall, in Jesus' first sermon, he took the book of Isaiah.

He read **‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’**

and then he said, **“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**

Whoa!

Jesus takes a very key passage about the Messiah, the Christ and says, “I am here.”

Anointed, not with oil but with **the Holy Spirit of God.**

Jesus is the long awaited Messiah.

He is long awaited prophet, priest, and king.

But don’t tell anyone. Why?

Because he has something he **MUST** do.

in verses 31-33 though, things get a little interesting.

They show us that though Peter is right about Jesus being the Messiah, he and Jesus have different ideas of what the Messiah is to be.

Let’s read **[Mark 8:31-33]**

Jesus mentions here for the first time the mission of the Messiah.

What is Peter's response?

Does Peter say, "Yes, that is what the Christ must do!" ????

No.

Peter **'rebukes'** Jesus. He tells him to 'stop'.
Jesus rebukes Peter for rebuking him.

Peter, like many had an idea in his mind of what the Christ would do....what the Messiah would be for him and for Israel.

So, here Jesus is going to tell plainly who he is.

What is it that really sets Peter off?

Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man.

This is Jesus' favorite title for himself. He calls himself 'Son of Man' over 80x in the gospels.

Why is this important?

It's a reference to **Daniel 7:13-14**.

[Read: Daniel 7:13-14]

- one like a man comes down from heaven on clouds.
- he stands before God.

- he is given power to rule and reign and to be worshipped.
- worshipped by all peoples on the earth.
- he will rule as king forever and ever.

He is the CHRIST.
He is the Son of Man from Daniel.

That, Peter was OK with.
Power? sure.
Rule? Absolutely
King? Yes.
“That the Messiah I’m looking for.”

But, he isn’t coming to reign and rule yet with power.
That’s what Peter and everyone else thought.

He is coming for another purpose.

Notice a very important word in **Mark 8:31**
MUST.
MUST!

Must suffer.
Must be rejected by the religious leaders.
Must be killed.
Must 3 days rise again.
...MUST....!!
He says it ‘Plainly.’

Jesus...the anointed one...the Christ...the Messiah...
the glorious Son of Man....will GO DOWN not up.
Not up. Not yet. First he **'MUST'** do something.

The plan of God is for him to go to Jerusalem and die.
Die on the cross for sinners and rise again.

"No way", says Peter.

"That's not the Christ I am expecting."

Jesus said that **Peter's mind is set on the things of man and not set on the things of God.**

Aren't we all like Peter in some way?

We can confess with our mouth that Jesus is the Christ.

"Yeah, I believe that." "Yes, that is true."

But...somewhere inside of us we still want him to be something we imagine him to be.

-Maybe we want a Savior and not a Lord.

- "Just forgive me but don't tell me what to do with my life."

-Maybe we want him to make our life better. *"Jesus, join me in my agenda and help me succeed."*...and he says, *"Lose your life for my sake and the gospel's."*

-Maybe we want a Jesus who makes us wealthy and healthy.

“Jesus, you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.”

He says, “See your possessions and give to the poor and come and follow me and you’ll have treasure in heaven.

So, what do we do? Try harder? Be better?

No.

Only this Son of Man, this Christ... can change our hearts.

We need him to touch us again and help us to see him clearly.

We need him to touch us again and put our minds on the things of God and not the things of man.

•Turn to him today and ask him to change you.

Some of you today are still wondering who Jesus Christ is. Time is running out.

Today is the day for you to believe in HIM and turn away from your sin.