

# Stay on Track!

*No matter the obstacles you face!*



Sunday, February 25 – 8:00 & 10:45

Second Sunday in Lent – 2018

Wednesdays of Lent: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today, *as we step into the gospel of **Mark** at **8:27**, that is where Jesus began to talk about His upcoming suffering and death!* Even though Jesus knew HORRIBLE THINGS were coming for Him, *He stayed on track!* The same is also important for us: No matter what obstacles we face, *may the Holy Spirit continually keep us* ♣sorry for our sins and ♣trusting in Jesus for eternal life!

1. **Who Is Jesus?** <sup>27</sup> **And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi [*“built by Philip in honor of Caesar” (Lenski, 333)*]. **And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”** <sup>28</sup> **And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”** <sup>29</sup> **And he****

asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”<sup>30</sup> And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. // The people thought Jesus was a *special man*, but He is actually **The Christ**, which is the same as saying **The Messiah**: *Christ* comes from the *Greek*, while *Messiah* comes from the *Hebrew*. They both mean **The Anointed One!** He was first promised to Adam and Eve – *He would bruise the head of the serpent* (*Gen. 3:15*); He was promised to be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David; and He was promised to be born of a virgin! Then, *in the fullness of time*, He came; then, *at the beginning of His ministry*, He was anointed with the Holy Spirit, thus He is **The Messiah / The Christ / The Anointed One!** Even though many reject that truth, let us STAY ON TRACK!

2. **How Are You Responding to Jesus?** (*Having established who He is – the Christ, He now turns to His upcoming suffering!*)<sup>31</sup> And he began [*so new info*] to **teach [His disciples] that the Son of Man must** [*δεῖ*] **suffer many things and be rejected** [*thus rejected after submitting to a test*] **by the elders** [*who represented the citizens*] **and the chief priests** [*members of the ruling high priests family*] **and the scribes** [*experts in interpreting the OT*] **and be killed, and after three days rise again.**<sup>32</sup> **And he said this plainly.** // Since Jesus mentioned the Jews who rule, *He was pointing to* ▶ *His trial and* ▶ *formal condemnation*. Think about those shocking things, if you were a disciple of His at that time: ➡ Would you have believed Him? ➡ What might you have said?

- a. Peter:<sup>32b</sup> **And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.** // Even though Jesus said that

those things MUST take place, Peter ignored Jesus' words and tried – *in the strongest way* – to keep Him from all such things!

- b. Jesus' response: <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 [men].”** // Peter was the leader of the disciples, *and the others heard what he said*, so Jesus immediately STOPPED all such thoughts in the strongest way! Jesus told Peter that his mindset was wrong – *NOT on God's ways, BUT on man's ways!* **We** want comfort, **but God** sent His Son to suffer and die to redeem us! What is your mindset, what is mine? **Let us stay on track!**

3. **Are You Following Jesus?** <sup>34</sup> **And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would [wills/wishes/desires to] come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** // Since Jesus had something very important to say, He CALLED both His disciples and the crowd to come close to Him – *and keep in mind that He just said He would soon suffer, die, and rise!* Then, *for anyone who desired to follow Him*, He told them to deny themselves and take up their cross; in other words, ➡ say NO to your will and YES to Mine and ➡ be willing to suffer whatever as My follower! Then Jesus went on to talk about the GREAT IMPORTANCE of doing what He said:

- a. All or nothing: <sup>35</sup> **For whoever would [wills/wishes/desires to] save his life [soul/self] will lose it [literally destroy it], but whoever loses**

[literally destroys] **his life for my sake** [because of your faith in me and faithfulness to me] **and the gospel's** [because of your confession of My work to take away the sin of the world] **will save it** [life/soul/self] [in other words, **you can't have it both ways**]. <sup>36</sup> **For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit** [to suffer loss] **his soul?** <sup>37</sup> **For what can a man give in return** [exchange]

**for his soul?** // Jesus wants all people to use a scale, a balance:



**On one side** put every pleasure you can imagine; **on the other side**, put hell. Now, ask yourself: Are all the pleasures MORE VALUABLE than heaven? Sadly, for FAR LESS, many forfeit their eternal souls 😞!

- b. Ashamed to follow: <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.** // So what does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus? He just told us! When we choose THIS LIFE over our RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM!

**Conclusion:** Let us pray: Dear Holy Spirit, we SO MUCH need Your powerful work in our daily lives to keep us on track: ♦denying self, ♦trusting in Jesus, and ♦being willing to suffer – *with our eyes ever fixed on the eternal blessings to come!*

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