

Jesus is the Messiah



Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

~ Mark 8:27-38 ~

If someone asked you who Jesus is, how would you answer that question?

Well Jesus asked his close friends who they said he is, and one of them, Peter, answered that Jesus is the Messiah. But what does Messiah mean?

Well Peter, and all of God's people in Jesus' day, thought that the Messiah was someone who was going to come and beat all their enemies and set up a great a beautiful kingdom, here on earth.

But they were really wrong. That is why Jesus told Peter off.

Jesus really is God's Messiah, and he did come to earth to beat our biggest enemy – sin, death, and the devil!

But Jesus didn't beat sin, death and the devil by winning a big war. No, Jesus beat them by suffering, dying, and then coming back to life again. That is what makes him the Messiah!

Jesus proved he is the Messiah and that beat sin, death, and the devil by dying and rising to life again. And Jesus says anyone who follows him should live his way, not aiming to for what they want, but aiming to live the way Jesus wants us to.

Some questions to think about:

1. What does Messiah mean?
2. What did Jesus say the Messiah would do?
3. Did Jesus prove he was the Messiah?
4. How should Jesus' followers live?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus is the Messiah. Thank you that Jesus suffered, died, and came to life again, beating sin, death, and the devil. Please help us to believe the truth about Jesus and live a life wanting what Jesus wants and not what we want.

Amen.