

Exegetical Notes, Mark 8:27-33

“What Do YOU Say?”

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Mark 8:27-33

Verse 27

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

- As Jesus traveled with his disciples he asked them to tell him what people were saying about him. He asked this, not because he did not know, but as a way of beginning the all-important conversation that follows.

Verse 28

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

- The reply to Jesus’ question indicates that there is a great deal of talk among the people as to who he is. But all of the answers are inadequate. They fall short of full understanding. Still, the answer indicates that everyone knows Jesus is not ordinary.

Verse 29a

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

- This is the all-important question. It is the question that we each must answer for ourselves and on which all else hangs.

Verse 29b-30

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

- Peter blurts out the correct answer to the question of Jesus’ identity. He openly confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. It is this confession that brings us eternal life.
- Jesus warns the disciples not to share this news with others because it must be personally discovered and because others will not accept their

report. The time had not yet come for Jesus' identity to be made public.

Verse 31-32

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and 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.

- After the disciples had confessed their belief in him as the Christ, Jesus began to teach them about deeper things. He told them about his suffering and his death.
- Peter could not grasp what Jesus was saying. Even though he knew who Jesus was, he began to tell Jesus that he was wrong. He told Jesus that Jesus did not correctly understand these things.

Verse 33

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 things of God, but the things of men."

- Jesus recognized that Satan had confused Peter and was actually speaking to him through Peter's mouth using Peter's voice. Jesus rebuked Satan by rebuking Peter.
- Jesus makes it clear that he will not bend the plan of God to suit the designs of men or of Satan. He will do what he was sent to do.

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