**Messiah and Son of God**

***Eyes on Jesus***

***[GRAPHIC]***

Jesus and the Disciples go to a region way north of Galilee in the Golan Heights, in an area now called Banias, an ancient site that was associated with the Greek god “Pan”.

While they were there, Jesus asked the famous question “Who do people say I am”?

He wanted to know what they have heard about the public opinion of him.

He also wanted to know what “his own disciples thought of him.

### MARK 8:27-30 – (Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah)

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

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

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

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

**30**Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

This is a VERY significant exchange between Peter and Jesus. Surprisingly, Mark’s gospel leaves out a lot of the detail that we find in Matthew. Which is surprising because the Gospel of Mark is widely considered *Peter’s account* of Jesus’ life relayed to John-Mark.

This is a ***pinnacle moment*** in the gospel and in the apostles Journey with Jesus.

Remember, up until this point Jesus was still teaching them and showing them about God. His hope was that they would receive a direct download from God himself, but it was not happening yet, until now.

**Matt 16: 13-20**

**13**When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

(He wanted to know the word on the street)

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

(Elijah sort of makes sense because of Mal. 4:5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you…” (last verses of the OT).

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

*(Not sure how Jesus was expecting them to respond.)*

**16**Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

*(Jesus was blown away. He may not have expected this to come our of Peter of all people, but it was the absolute truth.)*

**17**Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

*(This was not something Peter learned by someone else, or picked up along the way. This was a genuine download from God).*

*[THIS IS THE GOAL FOR ALL OF US. I am a Bible Teacher, but my goal is not for you to solely rely on me to hear God’s Word, I want you Him to reveal it directly to you. There is a place and purpose for teaching, studying, mentoring and even prophecy but it should NEVER take the place of believers hearing from God.*

*(John 10:27 “My Sheep hear my voice”)*

 **18**And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hadeswill not overcome it. **19**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will bebound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **20**Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

*At that point Jesus decided that He could reveal the deeper, more detailed plan about His mission here on earth.*

**Matt 16:21** - ***Jesus Predicts His Death***

**21**From then on Jesusbegan to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

***(Peter did not like the sound of that…)***

**22**Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” **23**Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

*(Sort of funny how Peter went from feeling elated that He got the right answer to the question, to dejected because He obviously reacted with wrong response.)*

The reason Jesus responded so harshly was because Peter was trying to keep Jesus from going to Jerusalem to do the most important things that anyone has ever done in the history of mankind. The Cross and the Resurrection.

***Did his prophecy in v. 21 come to pass?***

***Yes****, It all happened exactly as He said it would happen…*

Just before Passover of his 4th year with the apostles, he made a very bold move that he knew would trigger a response that incited the crowds to cheer him, and the Pharisees to begin to plot his death.

He asked his disciples to go and bring back a donkey that he would sit upon and ride into Jerusalem in fulfilment of Messianic prophecy that said in *Zech 9:9*

He then gathered His disciples in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. He told them that the bread was his body, broken for them and the Wine was the new covenant between God and His people, His blood poured out as a sacrifice. It all happened immediately after that.

**In the next 24 hours, he was arrested, beaten, whipped, mocked, and betrayed. He was taken before Pontius Pilate and Herod and *sentenced to death on the cross.***

**At that point, the *two most significant events* in the history of mankind took place in Jerusalem.**

* **The Death of Jesus *Matt 27:45-54***
* **The Resurrection *Matt 28:1-7***

These two things; Jesus’ DEATH and RESURRECTION are central to our faith.

They are the core of the gospel and the foundation upon which everything we believe is built upon. These are not negotiable. If you believe this to be true, you are considered a believer. If not, you are considered an unbeliever.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave these marching orders to the disciples, they are the given to us as well:

***The Great Commission***

**Matt 28:18-20 -**

**18**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

* **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
* baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
* **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
* Making Disciples
* Teaching His Word and
* Baptizing – (making a public statement of faith in Jesus as Messiah), became the focus of the church from that point on.

Romans 6:3**“**Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4**We were therefore buried with him through **baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

*Paul is writing this to the church in Rome, a church that was under heavy persecution in the headquarters of the Roman Empire, one of the most brutal dictatorships that ever existed.*

*He then challenges them to publicly declare their faith, which in many cases lead to their torture and death.*

Romans 10:9 says this: **9**If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved

Baptism is a public statement, openly declaring that you believe Jesus is Lord, and He was raised from the dead.

***(this is why we ask all those who have never been baptized, or whose baptism was not a public statement of their faith in Jesus, be baptized with us).***

What does it mean when you say JESUS IS LORD

You are saying the *same important truth* that Peter discovered in Caesarea Phillipi.

You are saying that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

(Christ means Messiah). You are saying that you wholeheartedly believe that Jesus is the Messiah!

HE IS THE MESSIAH (The Anointed One, The One of whom the scriptures were written about)

***“OUR FAITH ONLY MATTERS, BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID,***

***AND WHAT HE DID ONLY MATTERS BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.”***

OUR FAITH ONLY MATTERS, BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID (Lived a sinless life, died on the cross, rose from the dead)

AND WHAT HE DID ONLY MATTERS BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.” (“*The MESSIAH*” – He fulfilled all the criteria…)

There are Hundreds of prophecies, great and small that one must fulfill in order to meet the criteria of Messiah. *JESUS fulfilled all of them.*

* **He Must be Jewish** ([Isaiah 9:6](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%209.6)) - He was very Jewish, He even called himself a Jew (John 4)
* **Born in Bethlehem** ([Micah 5:2](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Micah%205.2)) - He was born in Bethlehem ([Luke 2:4–7](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%202.4%E2%80%937))
* **Born of a virgin** ([Isaiah 7:14](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%207.14)) – To Mary, a virgin ([Luke 1:26–27](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%201.26%E2%80%9327))
* **A prophet like Moses** ([Deuteronomy 18:18](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2018.18)), - Both Moses and Jesus were prophets “whom the LORD knew face to face” ([Deuteronomy 34:10](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2034.10);  [John 8:38](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.38)).
* **A priest in the order of Melchizedek** ([Psalm 110:4](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%20110.4)) - Jesus is a priest in the order of [Melchizedek](https://gotquestions.org/Melchizedek.html) ([Genesis 14](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%2014); [Hebrews 6:20](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%206.20))
* **A king** (Isaiah 11:10) - When Jesus was born, wise men from the East came looking for the King of the Jews ([Matthew 2:1–2](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.1%E2%80%932), ([John 18:36](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2018.36),37). “My Kingdom is not of this world.” *(NOTE: This was the hardest thing for the Jews then and now to accept, they expect an Earthly King)*
* **Enter Jerusalem as a king on a donkey** –(Zech 9:9), Triumphal Entry (Matt 21)
* **From the Tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10)**  - Jesus was from the tribe of [Judah](https://gotquestions.org/tribe-of-Judah.html). (Heb 7:14)
* **Matthew even said He must be called a Nazarene** (Matt 2:23) So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."
* **ISA. 53** One of the most important ways that Jesus fits the Old Testament description of the Messiah is that He was the [Suffering Servant](https://gotquestions.org/suffering-servant-Isaiah-53.html) of [Isaiah 53](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2053). (the whole chapter, read it…)

***Jesus fulfilled each of these messianic requirements and many more.***

**Philip and the Ethiopian**

Acts 8 tells a cool story about a Jewish Ethiopian, who went to Jerusalem to worship at the temple, and came away reading a prophecy about the coming Messiah. He discovered that Jesus is Messiah through ministry of Philip, and got baptized that same day.

ACTS 8:26-39

**26**Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” **27**So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopianeunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake “Candace” (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, **28**and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. **29**The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

**30**Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

**31**“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

**32**This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
    and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
**33**In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
    Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” (Isa 53)

**34**The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” **35**Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

**36**Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?” **37**Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”**38**So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

This Man went from being an unbeliever to a believer that very day.

He allowed the Word of God to speak to him.

He allowed The Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to Him

He believed in Jesus as his Messiah and made a public statement through baptism that very day.

The end result was, His life was transformed from death into life and went on his way rejoicing!

How about You? …do you believe?

Do you believe that Jesus is Lord?

Do you believe that God raised Him from the dead?

Do you believe that He is the Messiah who died on the cross to take away your sins?

It is of Eternal Importance that you believe this.

If you struggle with believing, ask the Lord to help your unbelief.

Ask Him to strengthen your faith to believe,

Ask Him for a personal download of God’s Word (just like Peter)

and when He does, declare that Jesus is Lord and if you haven’t already, *be baptized!*