

Sunday, September 12, 2021
16 Pentecost, Year B

Mark 8:27-38

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

OPEN

- What was your "nickname" in school?
- If you could visit the capitol of any country, which would you choose? Why?

DIG

- Thus far, what answers have been given to Jesus' poll (v 27, 3:21-22, 4:41, 5:17)?
- How and why does the tone of the gospel shift after Peter's declaration?
- What title does Jesus take on, and why? What four things does he prophesy about the Son of Man? According to Jesus, what kind of Messiah is he? Why does Jesus react so strongly to Peter?
- How is Peter like the blind beggar (8:22-26)? Why then does Jesus bid them to keep silent?
- How would you paraphrase what Jesus says in verse 34?
- What does it really mean to believe in Jesus?

REFLECT

- Recently how has your relationship with Jesus affected your lifestyle? Relationships? Priorities? Politics?
- Where does "Jesus' way" still conflict with "your way"? What is the cost benefit ratio of each course?