

Lesson 17: The Confession of Peter

Objective: To learn that we must believe and confess that "Jesus is the Christ" (or Savior and Lord) if we are going to heaven.

Background: Jesus knew in less than a year He would be killed and He wanted to prepare the twelve disciples for it. He decided to go somewhere so He could be with them alone. First, they went to Tyre and Sidon and then to Caesarea Philippi (see the map). Near Caesarea Philippi, Peter told Jesus, "You are the Christ". And it became known as "Peter's Confession."

Instructions: Read carefully Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:28-36. Before you answer the questions, first read over the paragraph above the question until you understand it.

Let's Think:

1. What was the disciples' answer? Peter answered for them all when Jesus asked them: "Who do you say I am? (Mark 8:29) Had the disciples found out who Jesus was? How about the people in Galilee? What did they think of Jesus? Explain. (Mark 8:27,28)

The disciples, like all other Jews, were taught to wait for the promised Messiah (King), who will one day lead the Jews to get rid of the hateful Romans who rule over the Jews, and set up a powerful Jewish Kingdom.

2. Right after Peter told Jesus, "You are the Messiah", what did Jesus tell the disciples about Himself for the first time in plain words (not in illustration as in John 2:18-22, John 3:14-15)? Will Jesus be the kind of Messiah the disciples (the Jews) were waiting for? Explain.

3. There were two kinds of Messiahs, the popular (physical) Messiah of the Jewish nation, and the suffering (spiritual) Messiah who became the Savior of the world.

a) Which kind of Messiah did God want Jesus to be? (See Lesson 4 Background)

b) Which kind of Messiah was Satan trying to make Jesus? (read also Luke 4:13)

c) Which kind of Messiah did Jesus choose to be? What price must He pay then?

d) Which kind of Messiah did Peter want Jesus to be? Was Peter standing on God's side or Satan's side? Does it explain why Jesus rebuked Peter? (Mark 8:32,33)

Jesus knew, after He returned to Galilee He must go up to Jerusalem and die there for the sins of the world. But before He did, He went to a mountain to pray –to get God's approval (OK) as He always did. And as He was praying, Jesus was seen in His Glory as God. (Luke 9:28-36)

4. Had Jesus received God's approval (OK)? If so, how? (Luke 9:34,35) When did Jesus have a similar (or same) experience before? (Matthew 3:16, Lesson 4)

5. Who saw Jesus in glory? Were Peter and the other disciples right in their confession that "Jesus is the Messiah-Christ-King"? ("The cloud" here means God's presence.)

6. Can we go to heaven (means to be saved and become God's children) if we believe that Jesus is a good person or a good teacher only? If not, why?

Let's Remember: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

