

Lesson 17: The Confession of Peter

Objective: To know that a man's destiny is bound up with his or her answer to this question: *Who Jesus is.*

Background: Jesus withdrew again to Caesarea Philippi soon after He returned to Galilee from the first withdrawal. At Caesarea Philippi Jesus stood, as it were, on a dividing line. Looking back was the short-lived public favor of his Galilean ministry and looking ahead was the road to Calvary. He became, in a true sense, the man of sorrows, behind Him was His rejection at Galilee and ahead of Him was His rejection at Jerusalem.

Instruction: Prayerfully read over Mark 8:11-13, 27-38; Luke 9:28-36.

Let's Think:

It has been almost three years since Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth of Galilee, entered the public ministry. People were impressed by His teachings, amazed by His miracles, and yet deeply puzzled by His "identity." Jesus *never* told the people nor the disciples that He was "the Messiah", for the messiah-ship of Jesus must be *discovered by each individual*. After two years of training, the time to be tested had come. The disciples must answer this most important question: *WHO JESUS WAS.*

- 1.a. What are the two questions that Jesus put to the disciples near Caesarea Philippi? Which is easier to answer? and why? (Mk. 8:27-29).
- b. In response, what confession did Peter, as the spokesman of the group, make? How does it differ from the public (popular) opinion?
- 2.a. What new line of teaching did Jesus begin immediately following Peter's confession? (Mk 8:31, 32a) In what sense was it new? Compare it with John 2:18-22; 3:14-15.
- b. Was the teaching received well by the disciples? Why or why not? (Mk 8: 32, Mt.16:22) (Read also 1 Cor. 1 :22-23).
- 3.a. Why was Peter's words met with stern rebuke from Jesus? In what way was Peter's idea of Messiah in line with that of Satan? (Mk8:33, review Lessons 4 & 15).
- b. Had Jesus changed the course or the goal of His ministry in the light of Lessons 4 and 15? What kind of Messiah did he choose to be? What does it entail?
- 4.a. Where did Jesus go from the villages of Caesarea Philippi before he set His face to go to Jerusalem, Luke 9:51? For what purpose? (Lk. 9:28).
- b. What was Jesus doing when he was transfigured, seen in his former glory, Jn.17:5? (Lk 9: 29)
- 5.a. What's significant about the appearance of Moses and Elijah and their conversation with Jesus? (Lk 9: 30f.; also Lk. 24:25-27; consider also Gal. 4:4-5).
- b. And, what's significant about the voice from the cloud? (LK 9:34-35) When did a similar voice come in Jesus' life? (See Lesson 4) Do you think that the voice came primarily for Jesus? for the three disciples? or for both? Why? Explain.
- 6.a. In what sense was Peter's confession a climax in the training of the Twelve?
- b. What truths about Jesus, His person and work, do you learn from this study?
7. Why is a man's destiny bound up with his or her answer to Jesus' question, "*But who do YOU say that I am ?*" And what is your answer to that question?

Let's Remember: Jesus said, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God ." (Matthew 16: 15-16).