



**“YOU ARE THE CHRIST”**; MARK 8:27-30

**Mark’s themes for the next section,  
bookended by two healings of blind men**

*(The unnamed blind man of 8:22-26 and Bartimaeus in 10:46-52)*

The Six Confessions of Mark’s Gospel			
1:1	“Jesus Christ, the Son of God”	10:47	“Son of David, have mercy on me!”
4:41*	“Who is this man?”	14:61-62	“Are you the Christ?...I am.”
8:29**	“You are the Christ”	15:39	“Truly, this man was the Son of God.”
Boat journeys are replaced with “on the way”			
8:27	“On the way” to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks the disciples about His identity.		
9:33-34	“On the way,” Jesus asks disciples what they’re arguing about.		
10:17	“On the way,” Jesus is asked what must be done to inherit eternal life.		
10:32	“On the way,” Jesus gives the final of three teachings on His upcoming suffering. For the first time, Mark reveals to the reader that the destination is Jerusalem.		
10:46	Blind Bartimaeus is sitting “by the way.”		
10:52	After being healed, formerly blind Bartimaeus follows Jesus “on the way.”		
Disciples’ shortcomings become more prominent, always followed by teaching that discipleship = serving			
8:32-33	Peter rebukes the Lord	8:34-38	“Take up your cross and follow Me...”
9:33-34	The disciples bicker about who’s the greatest	9:35-37	“If anyone would be first, he must be last...”
10:35-41	James and John grasp at “seats of honor,” other disciples are angered	10:42-45	“Whoever would be great among you must be servant...even the Son of Man came not to be served...”

*Is Jesus really concerned about popular opinion of Him?;*

**JOHN 2:25**

<sup>25</sup> ...and needed no one to bear witness about man, *for he himself knew what was in man.*

**MARK 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> And immediately Jesus, *perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves*, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?”

**MARK 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God...”

*The Messiah as Elijah;*

**MALACHI 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

*The Messiah as a prophet;*

**DEUTERONOMY 18:18**

<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

**MATTHEW 16:14**

<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others *Jeremiah* or one of the prophets.”

*Popular opinions of Jesus;*

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. *Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

—CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 54-56

—The Circumstances of the Confession—

*Jesus’ waning popularity;*

**JOHN 6:66**

<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

*The minority position;*

**ROMANS 11:5**

<sup>5</sup> So too at the present time *there is a remnant*, chosen by grace.

**ACTS 28:22**

<sup>22</sup> But we desire to hear from you what your views are, *for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.*”

*The ‘unpopular’ opinion;*

**PSALMS OF SOLOMON 17:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> See, O Lord, and raise up their king for them, a son of David, for the proper time that you see, God, to rule over Israel your servant. <sup>24</sup> *And undergird him with strength to shatter unrighteous rulers.* <sup>25</sup> *Cleanse Jerusalem from the nations that trample it in destruction, to expel sinners from the inheritance in wisdom, in righteousness, to rub out the arrogance of the sinner like a potter’s vessel, to crush all their*

support with an iron rod; <sup>27</sup> to destroy lawless nations by the word of his mouth, for Gentiles to flee from his face at his threat, and to reprove sinners by the word of their heart.

#### **2 ESDRAS 12:33–34**

<sup>33</sup> For first he will bring them alive before his judgment seat, and when he has reproved them, then he will destroy them. <sup>34</sup> *But in mercy he will set free the remnant of my people, those who have been saved throughout my borders, and he will make them joyful until the end comes, the day of judgment, of which I spoke to you at the beginning.*

**Words and slogans are not enough. Confession of the Christ must come from a heart of understanding—and that is only possible through a Divine touch**

#### **1 SAMUEL 16:7**

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. *For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*”

#### **ACTS 8:22**

<sup>22</sup> Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, *the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.*

#### **HEBREWS 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and *discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**The necessity of the heart confession**

#### **JOHN 8:24**

<sup>24</sup> “I told you that you would die in your sins, *for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.*”

**The blessed condition of the heart confession**

#### **MATTHEW 16:17**

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “*Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*”

*A sharp rebuke before the sharp rebuke;*

#### **MARK 1:24–25**

<sup>24</sup> “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus *rebuked* him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”

#### **MARK 3:11–12**

<sup>11</sup> And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” <sup>12</sup> And he *strictly ordered* them not to make him known.