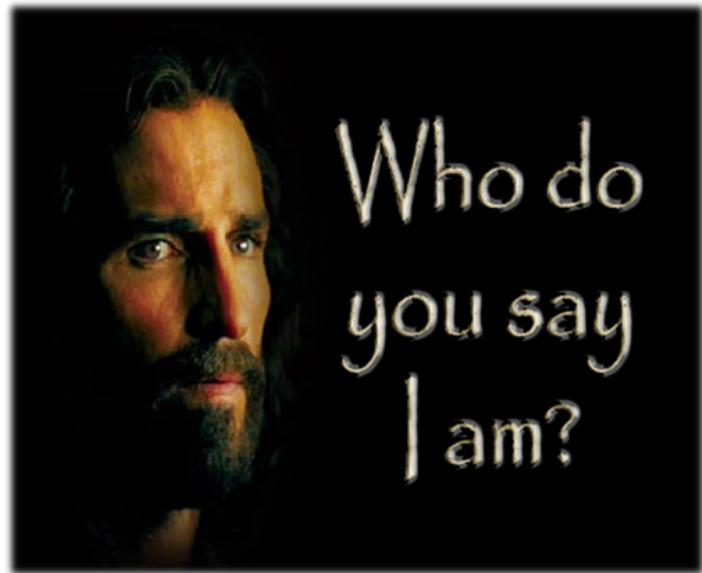


Unashamed

Feb. 28, 2021

Luke 9:18-27

In today's passage, Jesus steps up the commitment level. The task is bigger. There is more intensity. Jesus began with *"Who do you say that I am?"* Calling Him Lord, Messiah, Son of Man is fairly easy to say. Remember, even Satan knows that truth. Jesus turns up the challenge and says, *"If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me."*



Unlike today, the disciples had a visual understanding of what take up the cross looked like and the high cost of following Jesus. Jesus also hits us right where we are today when He said, *"Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words."* We now live in a time in the United States where if you share Jesus' teachings and Scriptures on sin, you will be attacked. The intensity has been turned up, as Christians, we are at a point where we have to decide if we are going to stand up for Jesus, His Word, and His teachings or will we cower in order to be accepted by our peers?

"Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and the glory of the Father and the holy angels." How about you? How and when will you answer the most important question in life? [excerpts from Russ Wilkins]

Confess Him (Luke 9:18-20)

- Chapter 9 of Luke's gospel is a transition chapter from Jesus' early ministry in the region of Galilee to preparing His disciples for His death and resurrection in Jerusalem.
- Early in the chapter, Luke records Jesus sending out the disciples two by two to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. They had seen Jesus preach, teach, and heal; now, they would experience being God's ministers firsthand.
- Jesus had become extremely popular among the people, known by King Herod, and hated by the scribes and Pharisees. In verses 18-20, alone with His disciples, Jesus asks two questions.
 - ***Who do the people say that I am?***
 - Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, yet he thought Jesus was John come back to life.
 - Some thought Jesus was Elijah (see 2 Kings 2:1-11) who had been raised to heaven.
 - Others thought Jesus a prophet because they knew He had supernatural power.
 - ***But whom do you say that I am?"***
 - Now it's personal. While Jesus is talking with all His disciples, it's not surprising Peter answered.
- ***"The Christ of God"*** was Peter's answer. In Matthew 16:16 we have *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"*. The Greek word for Messiah is Christos (Christ).
 - **In your own words, how would you answer Jesus?**
 - **Many today say Jesus was a good, kind and loving man. Why is it important for people to call Him Messiah?**



Accept His Resurrection (Luke 9:21-22)

- ***“Tell this to no one”*** - Knowing the truth and when to announce the truth requires wisdom that exceeded the disciple’s spiritual maturity.
 - Jesus time had not yet come. But one day, the disciples would be witnesses to the world.
- If the people know Jesus was the Messiah now, they might try to force Him to become their King in order to cast off the Roman government.
- ***“The Son of Man must suffer many things”***
 - Jesus was the Lamb of God who would be slain for our sin (Rev. 13:8).
 - God preordained that Jesus would die so we might be saved (Acts 2:23).
- ***“rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes”***
 - Elders represented the Sanhedrin: a council of 70 men - the religious leaders of Israel.
 - The high priest was the Sanhedrin leader. Chief priests were other influential priests.
 - The scribes were teachers and in essence religious lawyers of the Mosaic Law.
- ***“be slain, and be raised the third day”***
 - Jesus wanted to prepare the disciples for what was coming.
 - The disciples had left everything to follow Him. What would they do if He were killed?
 - Jesus had stated he would be killed, but the disciples had difficulty grasping the fact.
- Jesus did not stop at the prospect of death but offered the hope of the resurrection
 - He would be raised on the third day.
 - After the crucifixion, the disciples did not put it all together until they saw Him alive.
- **Why did Jesus need to die in order to redeem us from the penalty of sin?**
- **Why was Jesus resurrected and how does that make a difference in your life?**

Follow Him Unashamedly (Luke 9:23-27)

- After it was clear His disciples understood His identity (God’s Messiah), Jesus set forth the conditions of being called to follow Him.
 - ***“let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily”***
- Often times we use the phrase ‘take up my cross’ as a way to indicate we are carrying some burden in our lives or daily activity. This is not what Jesus was saying. In the first century, people associated the cross with death. The Roman crucifixion resulted in death.
- Therefore, ***“Take up your cross and follow Me”*** means being willing to die in order to follow Jesus. This is called “dying to self.” It’s a call to daily surrender to Christ.
- Many shun the crucified life and just live for the moment. Jesus said those who seek to ***“save his life shall lose it.”***
- ***“Whosoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed when He shall come in glory.”***
- **Regardless of the cost, will you live for Jesus unashamedly?**

Biblical Truth:

Jesus expects His followers to forsake all else for Him.

“but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.” 1 Peter 4:16

