

Mark 8:27-33

Christ Must Suffer

Proposition: *Christ must suffer, die, and rise to secure the Kingdom.*

I. The Great Confession: Jesus is Christ the King. (vv. 27-30)

a. **Question 1:** “Who do *people* say that I am?” (vv. 27, 28)

- i. *Answer 1:* If Jesus is a mere prophet, then *he isn't the Christ*.
 1. Objection: Classifying Jesus among the prophets is *not high praise but rather base slander*.
 2. Objection: Classing Jesus as forerunner *shows low expectations and misunderstandings of the kingdom*.
- ii. *Inference 1:* If Jesus is not the Christ, *no king is coming*.
 1. Objection: Surrendering Jesus as Christ is to *surrender to sin, Satan, and Death*.
 2. Objection: Rejecting Jesus as Christ is a *rejection of God himself* by asserting that his promises have failed.

b. **Question 2:** “But who do *you* say that I am?” (v. 29)

- i. *Answer 2:* If Jesus precedes, exceeds, and fulfills the prophets, then *he is the Christ*.
 1. Proof: As Son of God, *Jesus precedes the prophets*.
 - a. His *person precedes* them. (Ps. 2:7; Jn. 1:30; 8:58)
 - b. His *work precedes* them. (Pr. 8:22ff; Jn. 1:3; Jd. 1:5)
 2. Proof: As Son of Man, *Jesus exceeds the prophets*.
 - a. His *person exceeds* them. (Mk. 1:7; Jn. 1:30)
 - b. His *work exceeds* them. (cf. Mk. 6:30-44; 8:1-9)
 3. Proof: As God-Man, *Jesus fulfills the prophets*. (Mk. 9:1-13)
 - a. His *person fulfills* them. (Dt. 18:15; Ac. 7:35-37)
 - b. His *work fulfills* them. (Lk. 24:27; cf. Ps. 2:7)
- ii. *Inference 2:* If Jesus is the Christ, then he is *the promised King*.
 1. Proof: *Anointing*, not by man, but *from God*. (1 Sa. 2:10)
 2. Proof: *Reigning*, not by might, but *upheld by God*. (Is. 42:1ff)
 3. Proof: *Building*, not an earthly, but a *heavenly temple*. (vv. 27ff)

II. The Great Confusion: Christ the King Must Suffer. (vv. 30-33)

a. **Assertion:** If Jesus would be King, then he *must* suffer, be rejected, be killed, and rise again. (vv. 31, 32a)

- i. *Suffering for sin* to save us. (1 Pt. 3:18; cf. Zc. 9:9; Ro. 3:26)
- ii. *Being rejected* so that we are to be accepted. (Is. 53:12; Ga. 3:13)
- iii. *Dying to sin* so that we might live to God. (Zc. 13:7; Ro. 6:9, 10)
- iv. *Rising again* so that he might reign forever. (Is. 53:10ff; cf. Lk. 7:35)

b. **Objection:** “Christ *must not* suffer, be rejected, killed, rise.” (v. 32, 33)

- i. *Rationale:* “The Kingdom of God *isn't worth it*.”

1. “Just settle for an *earthly* kingdom.”
2. “Why not *forget* about sin?”
3. “What about *us*?”
4. “But you’ll *die*!”
5. “It *won't* work.”

ii. **Rebuke:** “The Kingdom of God *is worth it*!”

1. For the sake of the *Church*. (Lk. 12:32; 18:7; Ep. 1:4, 5)
2. For the defeat of the *enemy*. (Ge. 3:15; Rv. 12:17)
3. For the glory of *God*. (Ez. 36:23; Is. 5:16)

c. **Conclusion:** Christ *has done this and thus has begun to reign*. (v. 31)

III. Concluding Applications

a. **First**, hold fast the Great Confession: *Jesus is the Christ*.

- i. On this Great Confession, *the Church stands or falls*.
 1. Churches that deny Jesus is God incarnate *deny Jesus is Christ*.
 2. Churches that rank mere men with the Jesus *deny He is Christ*.
- ii. On this Great Confession, *every saint stands or falls*.
 1. If we say God’s promises have failed, we *reject Christ’s work*.
 2. If we surrender to temptations, we *surrender our hope in Christ*
- iii. On this Great Confession, *all our worship stands or falls*.
 1. Without Jesus, *no Christ*, and thus *no access* to God.
 2. Without Jesus, *no Savior*, and thus *no interest* in Grace.
 3. Without Jesus, *no King*, and thus *no part* in the Kingdom.

b. **Second**, avoid the Great Confusion: *The King must suffer*.

- i. Christ suffered to *secure his Kingdom*.
 1. Rejoice! The Church’s *sins are atoned* and set aside.
 2. Glorify! Christ *defeated his enemies* and put them to shame.
- ii. Christ suffered to *fulfill all righteousness*.
 1. Rest! The *Law of God* is satisfied.
 2. Press on! The *promises of God* cannot fail.

c. **Third**, receive the Lord’s rebuke: *Get behind me Satan*.

- i. *Fear to heap more sin* on the ‘must’ of Christ’s suffering.
- ii. *Beware of casting doubt* on the cross’ efficacy—this is the work of the enemy.
- iii. *Be unafraid* to join the Church in following Christ into the Kingdom on the *Via Dolorosa*.