

Mark 8.22-9.1

He Came! Will You?

Advent – Latin word for COME > Great News – **God has come in Jesus Christ**

Past – Jesus HAS Come / Present – Jesus IS Here / Future – Jesus WILL Come

Another side of ADVENT > **We must COME to Him who has COME for Us**
Thru Gospel of Mark > Jesus CONFRONTS People with CHOICE

Jesus gives More and More REVELATION of Himself
Powerful Healer – Wise Teacher – Bold Leader > Now an AMAZING Truth

Jesus been PATIENT LEADING Disciples – Hoping they’ll GET IT!
They’re NOT the BRIGHTEST Light Bulbs in the PALESTINE CEILING

Jesus to Disciples: “Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?
Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?” Mark 8:17-18

1. Confession 2. Cross 3. Calling 4. Clarity

1. Confession: Who is Jesus?

v. 27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.

Jesus led Disciples FAR FROM HOME > City Named for Caesar & Herod Philip
Farthest NORTH they’d Traveled > Near HEADWATERS of JORDAN River
Out of GALILEAN Comfort Zone into FOREIGN, GENTILE Area

There asks MOST IMPORTANT Question of ALL TIME and ETERNITY
Cannot COME to Someone you DO NOT KNOW > Who IS this Jesus?

Question has been ON THEIR MINDS for MONTHS?

They...asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 4:41

a. Society: "Who do *people* say I am?"

v. 27 On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

It is ONE THING to FOLLOW Christ in SAFETY and COMFORT of HOME

1997 1st Time FAMILY went to Church in Kazakhstan > RUSSIAN Language

Unknown, Unfamiliar, Unsettling: till heard sing "He is Lord, Jesus Christ is Lord!"

That NO ONE in Caesarea Philippi saying, *Jesus is Lord!*

City used to be called BALINAS – Devoted to Worship of BAAL

Greeks believed their god PAN was Born in that City

Romans had built Temple to CAESAR – Who Declared himself GOD & LORD

Amidst this RELIGIOUS PLURALISM > **Jesus asks WASSUP HOMIES?**

TODAY EVERY MAJOR RELIGION HAS SOME PLACE FOR JESUS

Brahmin / Buddha / Prophet / Rabbi / Teacher / Zen Master / Demiurge

Human / Divine / Spirit of Divine / god with small g / Human & Divine

v. 28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

Easy to UNDERSTAND why People thought Jesus was PROPHET

Spoke w/ DIRECT AUTHORITY of God > Words POWERFUL & Life Changing

Harder to Understand > DIRECT IDENTIFICATION of Jesus and John Baptizer

Perhaps because NEITHER had Ministered in that AREA > FAME BLENDED

Then and Now > POPULAR Views of Jesus FALL SHORT of GOD'S TRUTH
 World's Idea of Jesus > Like Muslims, J.W.'s, others > **NOTHING in HIMSELF**

b. Selves: "Who do *you* say I am?" > MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

v. 29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

From ARMCHAIR SOCIOLOGY to PERSONAL Theology: HEAD to HEART
 Had Hours of THEOLOGICAL Tutoring in God's OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

When put Together PUZZLES with Granddaughter > Like to FIX Frame First
 MARK: for 8 Chapters – Set Frame > NOW Centerpiece – JESUS Person & Work

Disciples NOW STATE Conclusion that MARK BEGAN WITH –
 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1

v. 29 Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

PROMISED Many Times and Ways from GENESIS to MALACHI

He is God's MESSIAH > One with FULLNESS of Holy Spirit

APPOINTED by God and ANOINTED by God for MISSION

Not SIMPLY A Prophet: FINAL PROPHET > God's LAST Word, LIVING Word

"Be strong, do not fear; your God will come...he will come to save you. Then will
 the eyes of the blind be opened..." Isaiah 35:4-5

PERSONALIZE this Question > Who do YOU say that JESUS is?

2. Cross: What has Jesus Done?

a. Slow Down!

GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT: 1st Time in Gospel of Mark reveals Divine PERSON
Might EXPECT Jesus to say TAKE it to STREETS! TELL the World about ME!

vs. 30,31 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach...

Why WAIT? They DON'T GET IT YET! PARTIAL Understanding of Person
Jesus MUST Open their EYES > Still see MEN like TREES WALKING

What KIND of MESSIAH had Jesus come to BE? > God's Christ, Not Human X
As Jews they LOOKED for CHAMPION to CRUSH the Head of ROME

b. Shock! a Crucified Christ

v. 31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and
be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be
killed and after three days rise again.

5 X's QURAN says Jesus did NOT DIE on the CROSS!
Perhaps NOT DENIAL of Jesus but a DEFENSE of Jesus

Why? Because Jesus – 'ISA – is MOST EXALTED Person in the Quran
Allah NEVER ALLOW his EXALTED PROPHET such SHAME, SCANDAL
VERY SIMILAR thinking of Jews > The Christ is HONORED SERVANT
NO WAY would such GREAT, NOBLE One be NAILED to CROSS

CHRIST CRUCIFIED > is an INCOMPREHENSIBLE OXYMORON

Messiah is to be ANOINTED by GOD, NOT CRUSHED by Him

c. Satanic – Resisting the Plan of God

PETER said, what ALL 12 were THINKING > WHY Jesus LOOKED at ALL

v. 32,33 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and *looked at his disciples*, he rebuked Peter.

Peter thought BEING KIND > Maybe Jesus MISSPOKE, Got OFF-Message
Perhaps DELIRIOUS on HOT DAY – Needed NAP, Cool Drink, STIFF Drink!

DENY Christ-Crucified NOTHING LESS than SATANIC: Peter is Satan's Proxy

v. 33 "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

SATAN = ADVERSARY > OPPOSES the Work of GOD / Stands in THE WAY!

Satan > Glory without Suffering / God > Glory throughOUT Suffering

d. Certainty – the Son of Man must Suffer

v. 31 He then *began to teach them* that the Son of Man must suffer

MUST Suffer > Term of NECESSITY reveals the DEFINITE PLAN of GOD

SYSTEMATIC Instruction: PRIMARY Theme of REST of Gospel of MARK

Peter conducted his own private theological class for Jesus, but it was Peter who had to learn the lesson.

D. Bock

MESSIAH – at that time – Title LOADED with MUCH MISUNDERSTANDING
 Son of Man Jesus' Favorite Title for Himself > 86 X's in NT – Only 4 NOT His
 Most IMAGINE title refers to Jesus' HUMANITY = Person, Man, Fellow, Guy

SON of MAN is TITLE from Daniel 7:14 > KNOWN but not WIDELY USED
 Jesus > Uses this Biblical Title as TEACHING TOOL to REVEAL HIMSELF

"...a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed"

Daniel 7:13-14

CROSS is CENTRAL to MESSAGE of Christian Faith

Hangs on WALLS of Many Church and from NECK of many Christ-followers

THEME of Many of our Songs – Prayers – Sermons

Very PURPOSE His COMING > Very NAME Jesus means SAVIOR

ANGEL of the LORD said to JOSEPH: "...you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Jesus NEVER saw CROSS as MISTAKE, TRAGEDY > Greatest TRIUMPH

I lay down my life-only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

John 10:17,18

3. Calling: What does Jesus Demand?

v. 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said...

Message for ALL PEOPLE > Not ONLY does Jesus GO to CROSS > So do WE!

a. Choice to Die

v. 34 "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

CROSS BEARING is NOT Reference to your BUNIONS or Mother-in-Law

People carrying crosses were people going to execution. C.F.D. Moule

MESSAGE Must have TAKEN their BREATH AWAY > Carry a CROSS!?

Most of CROWD had SEEN Hideous, Gory, Slaughter of the Cross

Jesus never hid His scars to win disciples. James Boice

Mark writes BEYOND this Ancient Meeting > To the WHOLE Church of Jesus
2 Months ago LAW PASSED in IRAN > CONVERSION = Punishment of DEATH

Devout Christians are destined to be regarded as fools in modern society. We are
fools for Christ's sake. We must pray for courage to endure the scorn of the
sophisticated world.

Justice Antonin Scalia
United States Supreme Court

Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

2 Timothy 3:12

FAMOUS ENGLISH CRICKET PLAYER, Missionary to China, India, & Africa
 “For five years we never went outside without a volley of curses from our
 neighbors...Had I cared for the comments of people, I would never have been a
 missionary”
 C.T. Studd

LOSS? FRIENDS, JOBS, PROMOTIONS, FAMILY, INCOME, STATUS, LIFE?

Call of God came to Respectable YOUNG Engaged COUPLE in Small Town
 Call of DEATH to Reputation, Pride, Social Standing, Happily-Ever-After Life
 DIED to Self > LIVE to GOD > His Eternal Plan painfully Intersected Their Lives

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to
 be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child
 through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did
 not want to expose her to *public disgrace*, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
 Matthew 1:18-19

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "... *And a sword will pierce
 your own soul too.*"
 Luke 2:34-35

NOBLE Couple accepted PAINFUL PART they were given in PLAN of GOD

30 Years Later > People of VILLAGE Still Talking STINK about THEM ALL...
 Jesus left there and went to his hometown...they asked, “Isn't this Mary's son?”
 Mark 6:1,3

Even if Joseph was DEAD – may have been – RESPECT calls him Son of Joseph

Holy Family chose to FIGHT DEVIL in this Life and Live with God in the NEXT

Jesus stipulated that those who wish to follow him must be prepared to shift the center of gravity in their lives from a concern to self to reckless abandon to the will of God.

William Lane

b. Choice to Live

vs. 35-37 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Any **HARD-HEADED** Businessman should **SEE** the **KINGDOM** is a **GOOD BUY**
Will **YOU** Focus on **TIME** or **ETERNITY** > Love the **GIFTS** or **THE GIVER**

Live by **PRINCIPLE** or by what is **POPULAR**

Who **NEEDS** the **WORLD** and its **THINGS** When you are **DEAD**?

Many who **REJECT** Christ **THINK** > What they **HAVE** is theirs **BY RIGHT**

Man comes with \$100 - Thrilled, Grateful > Come **INSIDE**, Have some **TEA**!

Next Day - Still Pleased, **AMAZED** by such **GENEROSITY**

Next Week - Grumble, Reading Paper - Get out of Chair – Answer Door

Continues for a Month > **OK**, but **LATE** for Work, Not Convenient

See Passes your house - \$ 100 to neighbor > Yell, **WHERE'S MY MONEY?**

Not HARD Choice to GIVE UP your LIFE when Know it is NOT YOURS!

Kingdom > Only way to **GUARANTEE** your **LIFE** is to **GIVE IT AWAY!**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

Looked at Brightly Lit TREE in Foyer of Intercontinental Hotel with KZ Woman
 She - "What a BEAUTIFUL New Year's Tree!"
 Me - "I would say, what a beautiful CHRISTMAS Tree"
 She - "Yes, but OUR big HOLIDAY is NEW Year - it is MOST Exciting for Us!"
 New Year EXCITING? DARK HOLE - Fear, Uncertainty, No Promises, No Hope
 Stare Down DARK CORRIDOR of New Year > No idea if ALIVE at its END?!
 Only way to FIND it EXCITING is to be DRUNK!
 Only IN JESUS: TODAY, TOMORROW, NEW YEAR make Sense, Have Hope

vs. 8:38-9:1 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Time Mark wrote > Peter already Crucified in Rome > Seen Kingdom, seen King
 Rest of Chapter 9 will see KING JESUS - TRANSFIGURED GLORY
 NEUTRALITY is NOT OPTION > If Not FOR Him you are AGAINST HIM
 WHO Dares say This? NOT the FINE PRINT on Some Fool's BUSINESS CARD
 The CHRIST - the SON of MAN - GOD in HUMAN FLESH
 WORLD says you are WASTING your LIFE / Jesus says you're INVESTING It!
 America's 1st Missionary - Message to New Recruits

I can assure you that months and months of heart-rending anguish are before you, whether you want them or not. Yet, take the bitter cup with both hands, and sit down to drink. You will soon learn a secret, there is sweetness at the bottom.

Adoniram Judson

Jesus came to REVEAL Glory of God in World DRUNK with its OWN Glory

Dying with Jesus > Not act of DESPERATION but one of DEVOTION

**Following the crucified Christ means following the conquering Christ
And all his people will Share in the blessings of his conquest.**

4. Clarity: What does Jesus do in Me?

a. Personal - Savior of the Whole World CAME of Just ONE MAN – you & me!

v. 22 They came to Bethsaida, and *some people brought a blind man* and begged Jesus to touch him.

FRIENDS had FAITH in Jesus > But MAN'S Need to be BORN and MATURE
If SOMEONE does not YET want to Come to Jesus > We bring them in PRAYER
Here is the great gospel warrant for intercessory prayer to God on behalf of others,
both on behalf of the physically sick and spiritually blind. R. Alan Cole

v. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village.

SENSITIVITY of Jesus / NOT SURE WHY or WHAT they May have SAID

v. 23 When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him

CULTURAL Idea > HEALING POWERS of SPIT > ACTED Parable

FELT WET, WARM, SLIME on FACE > Somethin' Good is Gonna' Happen!

Jesus was CULTURALLY ADAPTABLE > So He SPIT – Would Fit Great in KZ!

The Lord's action was a perfect illustration to the disciples of what he wanted to do with them in their spiritual blindness; take them gently by the hand, and lead them on.

Sinclair Ferguson

b. Partial ...*for now*

v. 24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

Work of God in our Life may be INSTANTANEOUS or in GRADUAL STAGES

But EITHER WAY it is the WORK of GOD

Friend in OREGON > 16 Hour Surgery for Cancer in Gums / Skin Graft from Leg
Months of Recuperation > Leg Problems > Dental Problems > Speaking Problems
ALL Indications > Cancer is Gone > Her Testimony: "The Lord HEALED ME!"

Mark is STARK CONTRAST to FAIRYLAND Gospel PROMISED on T.V.

FALSE Promises of TV Christianity > He will FIX EVERYTHING Right Now!

You will be DRIVING a NEW FANCY Car as Soon as Your Check is Mailed!

One thing FOR SURE > Guys on OTHER SIDE of Boob Tube Living FANCY!

Jesus does NOT come as the CANDY-MAN but as CHRIST upon a CROSS

c. Persistent

v. 25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

NOT Meant to PROVE Need for SECOND BLESSING Theology

Any More than ONE TOUCH Healings are to Show ONCE FOR ALL Theologies

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them -- the LORD, who remains faithful forever...the LORD gives sight to the blind Psalm 146:5-8

Jesus PROVES Himself as NOTHING LESS than JEHOVAH GOD

Jesus does NOT LEAVE any JOB HALF-FINISHED
What is TEMPORARILY PARTIAL will one day be PERFECTED

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus Philippians 1:6

ADVENT > God has COME > Not in TRANSIT, nor a TOURIST > to STAY!
Gospel of Matthew > BEGINS & ENDS w/ Promise of GOD'S ABIDING Presence
"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him *Immanuel*" - which means, "*God with us.*" Matthew 1:23

"And surely *I am with you always*, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20
TRUE even if your NAME is NOT SHIRLEY!

If HE needs to SPIT in your EYES or Call you Satan, He will GET YOU Through!
He has COME to BE with you NOW and take YOU WITH HIM!

Coming to Christ is just the beginning of clear seeing...only as Jesus keeps on opening your eyes will you see Him clearly. Sinclair Ferguson

I pray also that the *eyes of your heart may be enlightened* in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:18-19

Mark 8:22-9:1

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

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33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good

is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." 9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."