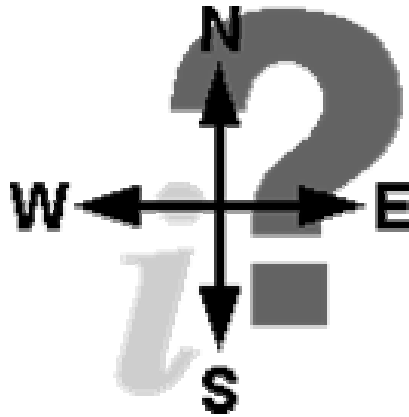


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Mark 8:27-31

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.

Jesus Predicts His Death

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. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

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."

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, June 24

Big Idea: Jesus was God back in history and is God now in your life.

Key Verse: Mark 8:29

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

Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you this week?

Questions in bold below are suggested focus questions.

Sections in italics and parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Observation Questions

Brian took us along on a hike with Jesus and his disciples during this passage.

1. Who does Jesus address the question of his nature to?
2. Who responds?
3. **How does each person respond?** (*Brian utilized three groups here: the crowd, the followers of Jesus and Jesus himself. Each of there responses helped with the historical significance of the question of Jesus' divinity.*)

Interpretation Questions

1. What is the significance of the disciples responses? (*What does it mean that they said Elijah, or John the Baptist of a prophet. What is Peter's significance of Messiah as an option*)
2. Why is Jesus' suggestion of the Messiah suffering and dying such a problem for Peter?
3. **How did Brian highlight this as a proof of Jesus being the only one to usher in this new belief of Jesus being divine and the resultant following called Christianity?** (*Brian called this the Jesus Factor, showing that Jesus as the warrior-king who dies and suffers for his people is exactly what was needed to take Jewish people and unite them with Gentile followers in a common belief in a God who saves them. Furthermore, this was only possible if done by God as human. Thus Jesus is divine and human—the perfect sacrifice at the right time to achieve what God had desired.*)

Application Questions

1. **Jesus was not only God back then. He is God now and this demands a response from us. Brian asked us to read, study, pray and connect with others so that we might surrender our lives to the Lordship of Jesus and enter into a transforming relationship with him. How are you resisting having that sort of relationship with Jesus? How can you improve that relationship?**

Leader's Notes

1. *Allow your study to come at this question on any level they choose to: academic, historical, personal. However, don't let anyone leave without doing the application question and assessing the Lordship of Jesus in their own lives. Challenge your groups to think deeply and honestly about this. Then pray for each other in these areas together.*
2. *For those wanting more, give them a copy of the attached resource list on the next page.*

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Was Jesus Really God? Further Study Resources

General Tough Questions Resources

Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions

Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli

This is an excellent resource for getting short, well-reasoned answers to many questions about Christianity.

The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus

Lee Strobel

This book offers powerful and accessible answers from key scholars in to the main questions surrounding Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Know What and Why You Believe

Paul Little

It is a classic that explains the basics of Christian theology and gives solid explanations for the reasoning behind our faith.

Specific Tough Question Resources – Was Jesus Really God?

Who Was Jesus?: Understanding His Identity in Light of Historical Scholarship

Scot McKnight

This book is only 55 pages, but it offer an excellent overview of the arguments from scholars who oppose Jesus' divinity and then gives solid analysis of the biblical eyewitness accounts in favor of Jesus' divinity. It is part of a Critical Questions Series put out by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries.

Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony

Richard Bauckham

Richard Bauckham is a highly respected scholar from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland who provides us with a very thorough, but readable study on all the historical support for understanding and trusting the eyewitness accounts about Jesus in the Gospels. This book was highlighted in the June 2007 issue of *Christianity Today* in the article, "Who Do Your Books Say That I Am?"

The Incomparable Christ

John Stott

John Stott is one of the most significant pastor/scholars of the last 50 years and in the book he looks at Jesus from four perspectives: through the Gospels, the early church, the later church and how he challenges us today. It is a great look in to many views on Christ that all come together to support him being the center of history and the focus of scripture.