

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 116:1-9

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (v9)*

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering & rejection you bring forth our salvation, & by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, & follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 8:27-38

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; & on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; & others, Elijah; & still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, & be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, & the scribes, & be killed, & after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. & Peter took him aside & began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning & looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter & said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, & said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves & take up their cross & follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, & those who lose their life for my sake, & for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world & forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me & of my words in this adulterous & sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

- How do these Old Testament references explain the answers given in v28? *See Genesis 5:18-24; Deuteronomy 18:15-22; 1 Samuel 28:7-19; 2 Kings 2:9-13; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6; see also Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9*
- We place (financial) values on people & their productivity all the time (*cf. vv36-37*). How does God value humankind? *See Genesis 4:10-12, 9:4-6, Ps 8, 17:6-8, 51:15-17, 147:10-11; Matthew 10:28-30, 6:24-34; Luke 12:4-7, 15-21; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4; Revelation 6:9-11, 18:21--19:3, 21:1-5*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

- Go, suffer, die & be raised (v30) is another to say take up one's cross & follow Jesus (v24; note that following Jesus is to join him in what he's already doing). Reflect each day this week on the 10 Commandments & their explanations in the [Small Catechism](#) to discover where your mind is on human things, not divine. *See Romans 12:1-2; SC available <bookofconcord.org>*
- Following Jesus happens in everyday life's workaday world, not merely moments when “the chips are down.” In fact, the former determines your readiness for the latter. How do the [Small Catechism](#) & weekly worship help you with first so that you'll be ready for the last? *See Matthew 25:1-13*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- A *different direction based on James 3:1-12*: Dave Ramsey's business (500+ employees) is routinely voted #1 place to work in Nashville & they have a strict No Gossip (*see 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment*) policy that can result in termination. This proves we *can* work together like this. What would be the pros & cons of such a policy at your employment? In your work group/area? In your home/family? On your social media accounts & txts?
- What specific steps can you take to implement a strict policy for yourself & your interactions with others? List at least 12 things; *See Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8; SC & Large Catechism: 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment <available bookofconcord.org>*  
Remember a fire requires oxygen (3:6).

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16th Sunday after Pentecost

09.12.21

Series: Following Jesus

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

*Good: Peter's confession. Bad: Peter's rebuke. Ugly: We take up the way of the cross. The Best? The resurrection to new life!*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** For those who want to save their life will lose it, & those who lose their life for my sake, & for the sake of the gospel, will save it. (v35)

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,  
in order to bring you to God. (*1 Peter 3:18*)

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