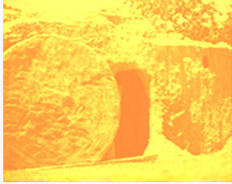


4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.



the gospel of

MARK

1:1

THE SON OF GOD

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9 And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.



45 Immediately he made his disciples get 46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. 47 And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night[g] he came to them, walking on the sea.

8:29

YOU ARE
THE CHRIST

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"



15:39



TRULY, THIS
MAN WAS
THE SON OF
GOD

Gaining By Losing

Mark 8:1-21



I. Confessing Jesus as the Christ.



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- **Who do YOU say that I am? Jesus calls them to make it personal.**



I. Confessing Jesus as the Christ

- **Many people believed Jesus was a prophet.**
- **Who do YOU say that I am? Jesus calls them to make it personal.**
- **Peter's confession is the exact center of Mark's gospel. First half focuses on Jesus' power. Second half focuses on Jesus' weakness.**

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- **Christ — means anointed one, Messiah. In OT, Messiah was God's King who would make everything right.**



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- **Christ — means anointed one, Messiah. In OT, Messiah was God's King who would make everything right.**
- **Jesus cannot be just a prophet because he claimed to be God.**
- **Becoming a Christian begins with a true confession of Jesus as the Christ.**

I. Confessing Jesus as the Christ.

II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus.



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- **Disciples had a radically different view of Messiah.**



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- **First time in Mark's gospel where Jesus explains to his disciples plainly his mission to die.**
- **Must – this word signifies divine necessity. Indicates that Jesus was not just predicting his death, he was planning it.**

II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

- **No one in Jewish history had ever linked the Messiah with suffering.**



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- **Messiah was supposed to conquer evil and destroy injustice, but Jesus was talking about suffering and dying.**



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- **No one in Jewish history had ever linked the Messiah with suffering.**
- **Messiah was supposed to conquer evil and destroy injustice, but Jesus was talking about suffering and dying.**
- **Jesus is not just altering their understanding of the Messiah, he is redefining it beyond recognition.**

II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

- **The talk of Jesus suffering and dying is what offended Peter.**



II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

- **The talk of Jesus suffering and dying is what offended Peter.**
- **The cross is offensive to everybody.**



II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

- **The talk of Jesus suffering and dying is what offended Peter.**
- **The cross is offensive to everybody.**
- **You cannot understand the significance of the cross unless you have felt the offense of the cross.**



II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

- **Peter is opposing the very plan of God and, without knowing it, has lined himself up with Satan.**



II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

- **Peter is opposing the very plan of God and, without knowing it, has lined himself up with Satan.**
- **A wrong view of his Messiahship leads to a wrong view of our discipleship.**



I. Confessing Jesus as the Christ.

II. Understanding the Mission of Jesus.

III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die.

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- **The call of Jesus: deny yourself, take up your cross, follow him.**



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- **Deny yourself: you must be willing to lose your privileges, status, rights, plans, and dreams.**



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- **Deny yourself: you must be willing to lose your privileges, status, rights, plans, and dreams.**
- **Take up cross: Your life is no longer your own. You life in total and public submission to Jesus.**



III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die

- **Followers of Jesus daily accept the call to die to self and are willing to die for Christ, if necessary.**



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- **Jesus is appealing to the most basic human desire – to live.**
- **The paradox: way of the cross is the way of life.**



III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die

- **You can never find your true identity by trying to find your true identity.**



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- **You can never find your true identity by trying to find your true identity.**
- **Imagine what your perfect life would look like.**



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- **The cost? Your soul.**



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- **You can never find your true identity by trying to find your true identity.**
- **Imagine what your perfect life would look like.**
- **The cost? Your soul.**
- **It's not worth it. Your souls is infinitely valuable to God.**

III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die

- **When you take up your cross and follow Jesus, he speaks a new identity over you.**



III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die

- **When you take up your cross and follow Jesus, he speaks a new identity over you.**

**But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...
Philippians 3:7-8**

III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die

- **What might “take up your cross” look like for you?**



III. Accepting the Call of Jesus to Die

- **What might “take up your cross” look like for you?**
- **Is Jesus worth it?**

