



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Pss. 110; 118:22-24; Isa. 52:13-53:12; Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 16:13-28; Mark 8:20-9:1; Luke 2:11; 3:21-22; 6:12-13; 10:9; 11:20; 12:4-12; 16:16; 17:20-21; 20:41; 24:44-49; John 18:36; Rom. 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:14; 2 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:18-25; 4

Study Summary

Following the miraculous feeding of the crowd, Jesus is finally alone with His disciples. He takes this time to ask them an important question: "Who am I?" Peter boldly declares on behalf of the others that Jesus is the Messiah, but it is unclear what the disciples understand this to mean. Jesus goes on to tell them of His mission as the true Messiah Israel has been waiting for, and of the challenges and joys this brings for all those who follow Him.

Historical & Theological Background

The Promise of the Messiah: Messiah means "anointed one". The title is connected to God's promise to king David in 2 Samuel 7, in which God promises to always provide a king for Israel from David's family. It is also connected to other prophecies throughout the OT that speak of God bringing deliverance for Israel from the line of David. During the time of Jesus, many Jews looked forward to this promise, hoping the Messiah would come and defeat their Roman rulers and establish an earthly kingdom. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He was careful to not connect Himself to the misconceptions of His time about the role and mission of the Messiah (considered as the Messianic Secret). We see this in our passage today, as Jesus tells the disciples that before He can enter into the glory of victory, He must face the suffering and pain of death. Jesus came not to defeat Rome and establish an earthly kingdom. He came to defeat Israel's real enemies: sin, the devil, and death itself. He came to establish a heavenly Kingdom (John 18:36) that will continue on forever.

The Cross: This was a tool used in crucifixions: a form of execution by the Romans. "Two concepts related to crucifixion occur in Scripture: the 'cross,' a pagan mode of capital punishment, and the 'tree,' which was a Jewish form. Jesus' crucifixion was the means by which He procured atonement for humanity. The term 'cross' was also used figuratively by Jesus to portray the sacrifice required in discipleship and by the apostle Paul to symbolize the death of self in the process of sanctification."

[Citation taken from Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible]

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 9:18-27 slowly and prayerfully. Ask yourself these questions: What does it mean that Christ is the King of my life? What might He be asking me to give up as I follow Him? What does it mean to carry the shame of the cross today? Come to group ready to discuss.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 9:18-27

Big Idea: The Challenge of Following Christ

Fallen Condition Focus: Shame

- What other important events take place while Jesus is praying (18)? (See Luke 3:21-22; 6:12-13) What is so important about this event?
- When was Jesus first declared to be the Messiah (20)? What does this title mean? How might the disciples understand it? (See Luke 2:11 and HTB)
- Why would Jesus warn the disciple not to tell anyone that He is the Messiah (21)? (See HTB)
- How does Jesus define the mission of the Messiah (22)? What does this mean for His followers (23-25)?
- What is Jesus referencing in verse 26? (See Dan. 7:13-14)
- Contextually, what could be the meaning of Jesus' words in v. 27? (See v. 28)

Gospel Connection: Jesus speaks of the suffering He will face at the hands of the religious leaders. Read Isa. 53:1-6. How does Jesus' suffering and death bring us life?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- How does this passage challenge the values and pursuits of our society?
- How often do you consider the self-sacrificing love of Christ? How might deeper meditation on His love bring transformation in your life?
- What does it mean to deny ourselves? To take up our cross and follow Jesus daily?
- Do you find yourself holding onto the things of this life? If yes, what are those things? What would it look like to give them up in following Jesus?
- Why does death bring life (24)? What glory is on the other side of suffering?
- Have you ever faced rejection because of your faith? Looking at Jesus' example, how should we deal with these moments?
- Are you ever ashamed to speak about your faith? Why or why not? How can we grow in our courage to share our faith boldly? Where is God calling you to speak?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 9:18-27 and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |