

Lesson II.

PETER CONFESSES THE CHRIST

April 10, 1904

Mark 8 : 27-38. Compare Matt. 16 : 13-28 ; Luke 9 : 18-27—Memory Verses, 34, 35.

Golden Text—Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.—Matt. 16 : 16.

27 And Je'sus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Cæ'sare'a Philip'pi : and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am ?

28 And they answered, John the Baptist : but some say, Eli'as ; and others, One of the prophets.

29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am ? And Pe'ter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

30 And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.

31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And he spake that saying openly. And Pe'ter took him, and began to rebuke him.

33 But when 'he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Pe'ter, saying, Get thee behind me, Sa'tan : for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

35 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it ; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation ; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In spite of all the wonderful miracles which Jesus did, even some of His own disciples did not yet know certainly that He was the Son of God.

One day Jesus was walking with His disciples in the country near the city of Cæsarea Philippi. Some little distance behind them followed a large company of people, watching to see where Jesus would go and hoping to hear more of His gracious teaching. As they walked, Jesus suddenly stopped, and turning to the disciples, He said, "Who do people say that I am?" "Some," they answered, "say that Thou art John the Baptist, some that Thou art the prophet Elijah, who long ago went up to heaven in a chariot of fire, and others that Thou art one of the old prophets risen from the dead."

"But who do you yourselves say that I am?" asked Jesus searchingly. At first none of the disciples answered. Then Peter, looking Jesus straight in the face, answered for them all, "Master, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus was much pleased with Peter's confession, but He warned the disciples to say nothing at present to others of what they had been speaking about. And for the first time He told His friends plainly, how He must one day be brought to trial by wicked men and be killed, but that on the third day He should rise again. Hearing this, Peter interrupted Jesus, and catching his Master by the hand, he said, "It is not right for Thee to suffer these things." But Jesus shook him off and rebuked Peter sternly, saying, "Get thee