

Lesson II.

JESUS REQUIRES CONFESSION AND
LOYALTY

April 14, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The healing of the deaf and dumb man in Decapolis was followed by the feeding of the 4,000 (see vs. 1-10, and compare Matt. 15 : 32-39.) After this the Pharisees in Capernaum asked Jesus for a sign to prove that he was the Messiah (see vs. 11, 12, and compare Matt. 16 : 1-4). This sign Jesus refuses to give, and departs, with his disciples, to the other side of the lake, seeking privacy. On the way he warns the disciples against the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod, (see vs. 13-21 and compare Matt. 16 : 5-12. Mark next records the healing of a blind man. Between this event and to-day's lesson must be placed the Jerusalem ministry recorded in John 7 : 2 to 10 : 21.

GOLDEN TEXT—If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.—Mark 8 : 34 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Phil. 2 : 8.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Mark 8 : 27-38. Study Mark 8 : 1 to 9 : 1.

27 And Jesus went ¹out, and his disciples, into the ²towns of Cæsar'ea Philip'pi : and ³by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, 'Whom do men say that I am ?

28 And they ⁴answered, John the Bap'tist : ⁵but some say, Eli'as ; and others, One of the prophets.

29 And he ⁶saith unto them, But ⁷whom say ye that I am ? ⁸And 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 ¹⁰of the elders, and ¹¹of the chief priests, and ¹²scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And he spake ¹³that saying openly. And Pe'ter took him, and began to rebuke him.

33 But ¹⁴when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Pe'ter, saying, Get thee be-

Revised Version—¹forth, and : ²villages ; ³in ; ⁴Who : ⁵told him, saying ; ⁶and others, Elijah ; but others ; ⁷asked them ; ⁸who ; ⁹Omit And ; ¹⁰by ; ¹¹Omit of ; ¹²the ; ¹³he turning about, and seeing his disciples, rebuked Peter, and said, ¹⁴mindest ; ¹⁵Omit that be ; ¹⁶he called unto him the multitude, ¹⁷and said, ¹⁸If any man would come ; ¹⁹would ; ²⁰and whosoever ; ²¹Omit the same ; ²²doth ; ²³to gain ; ²⁴forfeit his life. ²⁵For what should ; ²⁶life ; ²⁷For whosoever shall ; ²⁸generation, the Son of man also shall be ashamed of him.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jesus requires confession and loyalty, Mark 8 : 27-38.

Th.—Loyalty to Jehovah, 1 Kgs. 18 : 30-39.

T.—A miraculous supply of food, Mark 8 : 1-13.

F.—Personal confession, Ps. 63 : 1-11.

W.—Teaching and healing, Mark 8 : 14-26.

S.—Following Jesus, Luke 9 : 57-62.

S.—Confessing Christ, Matt. 10 : 32-39.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A GREAT QUESTION.—27, 28. Jesus went out ; northward 30 miles along Jordan's east bank ; a beautiful, solitary region where Jesus and the disciples found quiet. Into the towns : parts or regions near Cæsarea Philippi. Asked his disciples. An important moment has come for which Jesus prepared by prayer, Luke 9 : 18. Whom do men say . . . ? What do those outside the disciple band say ? John the Baptist. The guilty Herod was one who thought so, Matt. 14 : 2. Elias ; Elijah, who was to return, according to Mal. 4 : 5. Jesus' stern words might



HEAD OF PETER

suggest these two fearless, outspoken men to the people. Matthew says that some took Jesus to be Jeremiah, possibly because of the tenderness and compassion common to both. One of the prophets. All agree in seeing the greatness of the prophet in Jesus.

29, 30. Whom say ye . . . ? This is the all-important question. The answer will reveal whether or not his companionship, his teachings, his miracles, have revealed to them his real personality Peter answereth. Peter generally is the spokesman for the disciples. Thou art the Christ ; the answer Jesus hoped for. He is the Messiah. In Matthew (see Matt. 16 : 17) Jesus pronounces a blessing on Peter for this answer, and says that "on this rock" that is, the confession which Peter had made, he will build his church. Charged ; a very emphatic word. Tell no man. The time was not ripe. There was much more for the disciples to learn before they would be prepared to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

II. A GREAT REVELATION.—31-33. Began to

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary D.D., for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.