

We teach apostolic doctrine and administer apostolic discipline. The "voice of the church" is the "voice of God" only when it accords with the Bible and conscience.

20. **Tell no man**—Because they did not yet fully understand the nature of this kingdom; it might excite tumults among the people; exasperate his enemies, and thus raise unnecessary obstacles to their work in the future.

III. THE CROSS FORETOLD. 21. **From that time**—This was his first plain announcement (Mark 8: 32) of his approaching death. See also Mark 8: 31; 10: 33; Luke 18: 31; 24: 6. **That he must go**—He explained the necessity for his sufferings in order to fulfil prophecy (Luke 24: 27), and make atonement for sin. They were not prepared to receive this truth yet. **Be raised again the third day**—They do not seem to have "taken in"

the literal sense of this announcement (Luke 24: 6-8), even after it had been repeated the second time (Mark 9: 10). The chief priests were sharper than they (Matt. 27: 63).

22. **Began to rebuke him**—Peter took him aside to remonstrate against his speaking of such an ending to his ministry. This was not the kind of coronation that he had fancied for Jesus.

23. **He turned**—towards the disciples (Matt. 8: 33). **Get thee behind me Satan**—The very words used to the devil at the Temptation (Matt. 4: 10). Jesus hears, not Peter's voice but, Satan's again urging him to snatch a crown without the cross. **An offence unto me**—R. V. "a stumbling-block unto me." **Savorest**—R. V. "mindest," "carest for." "You desire a worldly kingdom gained after man's fashion instead of a spiritual one founded in accordance with God's plan."

SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

The central thought in this lesson is contained in Peter's confession "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Our summary must serve to set this out prominently.

Why did Jesus retire from Galilee for a time? Where were Jesus and his disciples when the conversation in our lesson took place? What question did Jesus ask? (Write, Who is Jesus?) What answers were given to this question? What answer did Peter give? From whom had Peter learnt this? Speak of the influence of Jesus' holy life, gracious words, and loving, merciful deeds, all proving him to be the Son of our Father in heaven. Yet the need of the Holy Spirit, to make us see and feel this so as to believe on Him and confess him.

Show that Peter only voiced the faith of all the others. What does the name *Peter* mean? On what will Christ build his church? Explain the play upon the word. Dwell upon the "rock element" in Peter as the Christian's defence against evil. The church of God cannot be overthrown so long as she holds her faith in the divinity of Christ and in his death as an atonement for sin. So Jesus takes Peter's words for a text from which to preach about his sufferings and death.


Peter called Jesus "the Christ," but did not know so well then all that was included in that name as we do. What offended him, rejoices us. Jesus is the Messiah just because he died for sinners. If you were asked the question, could you answer with Peter's faith, **My Saviour?**

Who is Jesus?

SOME SAY

JOHN
ELIJAH
JEREMIAH
A PROPHET

Peter says  The Christ

Can you say  My Saviour?

"Christ Jesus came . . . to save sinners."