

Lesson II.

PETER CONFESSES THE CHRIST

April 10, 1904

Mark 8: 27-38. Commit vs. 34, 35. Compare Matt. 16: 13-28; Luke 9: 18-27. Read Mark 8: 1-26.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.—Matt. 16: 16.

27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Cæsarea Philippi; 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, Elias; and others, One of the prophets."

29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter 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 these things openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get

thee behind me, Satan; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

34 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, 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.

Revised Version.—1 forth; 2 villages; 3 in; 4 Who; 5 told him, saying; 6 and others, Elijah; but; 7 asked them; 8 Omit And; 9 by; 10 Omit of; 11 the; 12 the; 13 he turning about; 14 seeing his disciples; 15 Omit he; 16 and saith; 17 minister; 18 Omit that be; 19 he called unto him the multitude with his disciples, and said; 20 if any man would; 21 would; 22 and; 23 Omit the same; 24 doth; 25 to gain; 26 forfeit his life; 27 For what should; 28 life; 29 For whosoever shall; 30 the Son of man also shall be ashamed of him.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Peter confesses Christ, Mark 8: 27-38. T.—Another confession, John 6: 59-69. W.—Confessing the Lord, Isa. 44: 1-8. Th.—Belief and confession, Rom. 10: 1-11. F.—Not ashamed, 2 Tim. 1: 1-12. S.—Reward and confession, Luke 12: 1-12. S.—Blessing for Peter, Matt. 16: 13-20.

Shorter Catechism.—Ques. 17. Into what estate

did the fall bring mankind? A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Great Confession, 27-29.

II. A Great Requirement, 30-38.

III. A Great Requirement, 34-38.

Lesson Hymns.—Book of Praise, 3; 67; 2 (Ps. Sol.); 161; 538 (from Primary Quarterly); 50.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place.—Autumn of 29 A.D.; Cæsarea Philippi, a city at the foot of Mount Hermon at the main source of the Jordan.

Connecting Links.—During the interval between the Lessons comes the feeding of the 4,000; some further attempt on the part of the Pharisees and Sadducees to entrap Jesus; and the healing of a blind man, ch. 8: 1-26; Matt. 15: 32 to 16: 12. But the opportunity for Galilee is past, and Jesus goes north beyond its borders, in order to devote His time to teaching His disciples.

I. A Great Confession, 27-29.

V. 27. *Went forth* (Rev. Ver.); that is, from Galilee: from Bethsaida, near the entrance of the Jordan into the Lake of Galilee, v. 22. They went northward up the Jordan valley, a distance of 25 or 30 miles. *Jesus . . . and his disciples.* The express naming of Jesus hints at something very important to be told, and the mention of the disciples indicates that it concerned them. *Villages* (Rev. Ver.) of Cæsarea Philippi; the villages near that city. (See Light from the East.) *He asked His disciples; the first*

time He had put this momentous question. He had taught them much about the kingdom of God and the work of the Messiah. They had been witnesses, too, with the people, of His wonderful works. He now seeks to know how far they had comprehended Him, and what impression He had made on the people. *Whom do men say?* The ordinary people, who knew Him less intimately than the disciples. *That I am.* Matthew (ch. 16: 13) inserts "the Son of man," the title given by Daniel to the glorious Messiah, Dan. 7: 13.

Vs. 28, 29. *John the Baptist;* Herod's opinion, Matt. 6: 14. *Elijah;* the expected forerunner of the Messiah, Mal. 4: 5; ch. 9: 11-13. *One of the prophets.* Compare Deut. 18: 15. Matt. ch. 16: 14 specifies Jeremiah. *But whom say ye?* Who should know better? *Peter;* evidently speaking for the twelve. *Thou art the Christ;* that is, the promised Messiah, the Anointed One, the divinely appointed Head of the kingdom of God. "Messiah" is the Hebrew, and "Christ" the Greek for "anointed." Matthew adds, "the Son of the living God."