



King's Cross

Key idea:

Jesus is the Messianic King Who came to suffer, be rejected, die, and be raised so that He might save us from our sin.

Key text:

Mark 8:31-33

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Key points:

1. Following Peter's initial confession that Jesus is the Messianic King, Jesus began to clearly and boldly teach the disciples that He must suffer, be rejected, die, and then be raised from the dead.
2. Peter, influenced by the common conception that the Messianic King would conquer and crush others, could not understand or accept Jesus' clear statement of His impending rejection and death, and began to rebuke Him!
3. Jesus rebuked Peter - for Satan was speaking through Peter, who was thinking in the ways of fallen humans rather than the ways of God.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. In light of the high point of Peter's confession in Mark 8:29, how shocked am I by this ensuing discussion? Is this what I would expect to happen immediately following the revelation that Peter had been given?

3. Why does Jesus continue to refer to Himself as the Son of Man rather than the Messiah/Christ? What problems were associated with the term “Messiah”? What can I learn from the title “Son of Man” that I might not understand with the title of Messiah/Christ?
4. Jesus has spoken in parables throughout most of this Gospel, but He now speaks plainly and boldly about His impending suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. Why does He do this now rather than before?
5. Why does Jesus stress that He will be rejected, not by the Roman authorities, but by the religious leaders of Israel? How would I have felt if I were one of the disciples and was told this was to be the response of the religious leaders of God’s people?
6. Why does Jesus say he MUST suffer, be rejected, killed, and raised from the dead? Why is this a necessity? Can I think of how this was revealed in the Old Testament?
7. Peter, who had seen all of Jesus’ miracles and heard His teaching, and had just confessed that Jesus was the Messianic King - so how could he dare to rebuke Him? Have I ever found myself so confused by God’s work that I could not accept it was actually God who was working rather than Satan?
8. What makes it so hard for me to embrace the way of the cross, preferring instead the way of glory? If I allow this to take root in my heart, how will I respond to God’s way of the cross?
9. Jesus rebukes Peter by speaking to Satan. What does this indicate? Does it mean that Peter was possessed by Satan? Or that Satan was somehow speaking through Peter? Or that Peter had embraced a Satanic way of thinking? How might this happen in my life today?
10. How can I protect my mind and heart so that they are not seduced away from the “things of God” to the “things of men”? What specific steps can I take over the next two weeks to do this?
11. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Gospel or strengthen their faith?