

5/10/15

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 67

TITLE: THE MOST IMPORTANT CONFESSION

TEXT: LUKE 9:18-22

INTRODUCTION: PERSONAL OPINION POLLS ARE
VERY VERY POPULAR IN OUR NATION.

* THE REASON BEING, PEOPLE LIKE TO EXPRESS
THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT CERTAIN ISSUES AND
SUBJECTS.

** THE AMERICAN WAY IS, WHAT DO THE
MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THINK. AND THAT
KIND OF REASONING IS THE MAJORITY IS
NORMALLY RIGHT, AND CAN TELL US WHETHER
OUR OPINIONS ARE RIGHT OR WRONG.

*** OUR OPINIONS MAINSTREAM, PROGRESSIVE, OPEN TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, OR ARE WE OUT OF TOUCH, OLD FASHIONED, OR NARROW-MINDED.

**** AND THERE ARE MANY POLITICIANS TODAY WHO FORM THEIR PLATFORMS ACCORDING TO POLLS, PUBLIC OPINION, THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

(2) BUT THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS WITH POLLS AND PUBLIC OPINION. NO. 1 THE MAJORITY IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT; NO. 2 POLLS ARE NOT ALWAYS ACCURATE; THEY HAVE MARGINS OF ERROR; AND NO. 3, HOW BROAD BASED ARE THEY? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN POLLED BY A NATIONAL POLL? A GALLUP POLL, **A HARRIS POLL, AN ABC POLL, ETC? (I HAVEN'T, EVER)**

* NOW I BRING THOSE PROBLEMS UP ABOUT POLLS BECAUSE WE CAN NEVER FORM OUR BELIEFS ABOUT WHO JESUS CHRIST IS BY TAKING A POLL BECAUSE YOU WILL COME UP WITH ALL KINDS OF ANSWERS.

**** FOR A POLL DOESN'T DETERMINE WHO JESUS IS. MAJORITY OPINION DOESN'T COMMUNICATE WHO CHRIST IS. WHO JESUS IS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS POPULARITY OR HOW HE IS VIEWED BY THE RICH, THE POOR, AND DIFFERENT RACES. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JESUS' CREDENTIALS.**

***** AND IF YOU WERE TO POLL PEOPLE ABOUT WHO JESUS IS YOU WOULD GET ALL KINDS OF OPINIONS.**

****** A LIAR, A LUNATIC, A GOOD MAN, A PROPHET, A RELIGIOUS LEADER, A MARTYR, A SUPERSTAR, A SON OF GOD, MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, A DECEIVER, AN ANGEL, A FALSE PROPHET, OR THE TRUTH, THE SON OF GOD, **THE 2'D PERSON OF THE TRINITY, AND THE MESSIAH.****

(3) WELL IN CHRIST'S DAY, JESUS ASKED THAT QUESTION OF HIS FOLLOWERS, "WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT I AM?"

* NOW IN THE PARALLEL TEXTS, MATTHEW, MARK AND OUR TEXT TODAY, **CHRIST'S** DISCIPLES GAVE 4 ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION, SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST, SOME SAY ELIJAH, SOME SAY JEREMIAH, AND STILL OTHERS SAY, ONE OF THE PROPHETS.

** BUT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO JESUS, WAS NOT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAID AND WHAT THEIR OPINIONS WERE, BUT WHAT HIS APOSTLES BELIEVED ABOUT HIM.

*** AND IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT TO JESUS BECAUSE HE HAD AN IDENTITY CRISIS OR HE NEEDED CREDIBILITY, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIS FOLLOWERS, FOR THEIR ETERNAL DESTINY WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THEIR BELIEF AND ACTIONS THAT WOULD BE FRUITS TO THAT BELIEF.

**** AND BELOVED, THE ULTIMATE QUESTION THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING MUST FACE IS, WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? THE QUESTION ASKED EARLIER IN LUKE 9:9 BY HEROD THE TETRARCH, **"WHO IS THIS MAN?"** AND THE QUESTION ASKED BY THE DISCIPLES AFTER JESUS CALMED THE STORM IN LUKE 8:25, WHO THEN IS THIS?

(4) AND A PERSON'S ANSWER IS OF THE MOST MONUMENTAL IMPORTANCE, BECAUSE ON IT HINGES THEIR ETERNAL DESTINY.

* IT IS A QUESTION THAT NO ONE CAN ESCAPE OR AVOID.

** FOR EVERY SOUL, AS IT WERE, WILL BE PINNED AGAINST THE WALL OF ETERNITY AND FORCED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

*** AND WE EITHER CONFESS NOW OR LATER THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, THAT HE IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

**** AND IF YOU CONFESS NOW AND TRULY BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART YOU WILL BE SAVED, FOR ROM. 10:9 & 10 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

(5) BUT EVERYONE WILL CONFESS THAT SOME DAY BEYOND THE GRAVE, AND TO DO IT THEN IS TOO LATE, BUT EVERYONE WILL CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11.

* AND FOLKS, THE RAMIFICATIONS OF BOWING THE KNEE TO KING JESUS NOW HAS ETERNAL BLESSING. A TRUE CONFESSION FROM A TRUE POSSESSION OF JESUS LEADS TO A TRUE CONVERSION AND A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

** AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY, PETER AS A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE TWELVE GIVES A TRUE **CONFESSION ABOUT JESUS**, "THE CHRIST OF GOD."

*** **AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE TITLED THE MESSAGE TODAY**, "THE MOST IMPORTANT CONFESSION".

****** AND UNDER THAT THEME WE'LL LOOK AT 4**
POINTS AS WE STUDY 5 VERSES TODAY. NO. 1
THE PRAYER AND PETITION, VV. 18-20A; NO. 2
THE PROFESSION OF PETER, V. 20B; NO. 3 THE
PROHIBITION BY JESUS, V. 21; AND NO. 4 THE
PERPLEXITY THE DISCIPLES MUST HAVE HAD
OVER WHAT JESUS SAID, V. 22.

(6) AND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER
INTRODUCTION, LOOK AT V. 18 **WHERE WE'LL**
SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE PRAYER AND
PETITION. LOOK AT LUKE 9:18 PLEASE.

I. THE PRAYER AND PETITION, (READ V. 18)

A. NOW WE LEARN THAT JESUS POSED HIS ALL
IMPORTANT QUESTION OR PETITION TO THE
DISCIPLES JUST AFTER HE HAD SPENT TIME
PRAYING ALONE.

* AND NOTE, THAT JESUS ALWAYS MADE
COMMUNION WITH HIS FATHER A PRIORITY IN
THE FACE OF CONSTANT DIFFICULTIES AND
DEMANDS PEOPLE MADE ON HIM.

** AND MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOSPEL WRITER, LUKE MENTIONS THE TIMES THAT JESUS SPENT IN PRAYER, FOR LUKE WANTED TO SHOW THAT BEFORE EACH NEW PHASE OF MINISTRY, JESUS WENT TO HIS FATHER IN PRAYER.

***** AND I CAN'T EMPHASIZE ENOUGH, AND** SOMETIMES THIS SOUNDS LIKE A BROKEN RECORD, HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SEEK OUR **FATHER'S DIRECTION AS WE FACE QUESTIONS** OF DIRECTION AND THINGS WE SHOULD DO.

****** I MEAN DON'T WE AS BELIEVERS WANT TO** KNOW WHAT OUR FATHER WANTS US TO DO IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS, OR DO WE NOT PRAY, BECAUSE WE REALLY WANT TO DO WHAT WE WANT TO DO, OR PRAY A LITTLE, TO FEEL BETTER, BUT WE ARE GOING TO DO WHAT WE WANT, BUT AT LAST WE CAN SAY WE PRAYED ABOUT IT. (BELOVED WE SEE JESUS PRAYING IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE.)

1. WELL, AS JESUS IS PRAYING ALONE, THE DISCIPLES ARE WITH HIM, WHICH MEANS THEY WERE NEAR BY.

* AND BECAUSE THEY ARE CLOSE BY, HE OBVIOUSLY CALLS THEM TO HIM AND ASKS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THE WORLD, HE **GIVES THIS PETITION, "WHO DO THE PEOPLE SAY THAT I AM?"**

* AND IN THE PARALLEL TEXT OF MATTHEW **16:13, JESUS ASKED "WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT THE SON OF MAN IS?"** ADDING THE PHRASE SON OF MAN.

** **AND THE PHRASE SON OF MAN WAS JESUS'** MOST COMMON DESIGNATION OF HIMSELF AND IS USED OF HIM SOME 85 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

*** NOW THIS TITLE WAS CLEARLY RECOGNIZED BY JEWS AS A TITLE OF THE MESSIAH, USED THAT WAY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IN DANIEL 7:13.

**** **BUT BECAUSE IT EMPHASIZED JESUS'**
HUMANNESS, MANY JEWS PREFERRED NOT TO
USE IT.

***** YET JESUS PREFERRED TO USE IT TO FOCUS
ON THE HUMILIATION AND SUBMISSION OF HIS
FIRST COMING AND HIS WORK OF SACRIFICIAL,
SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT.

2. NOW UNDERSTAND AT THIS POINT, AS JESUS
**ASKS THE QUESTION, "WHO DO PEOPLE SAY
THAT THE SON OF MAN IS?" THAT JESUS WAS**
NOT UNAWARE OF WHAT THE PEOPLE WERE
SAYING ABOUT HIM.

* BUT THAT HE WANTED THE 12 TO THINK
CAREFULLY ABOUT THOSE POPULAR
PERCEPTIONS.

** FOR YOU SEE JESUS WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT OPINION POLLS OF HIS DAY OF THE UNBELIEVING AND HYPOCRITICAL SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, SOME OF WHOM HAD EVEN ACCUSED HIM OF BEING IN A LEAGUE WITH SATAN.

*** BUT HE WAS RATHER ASKING ABOUT THE THOUGHTS OF HIS OWN, WHICH HE KNEW, BUT THEY NEEDED TO THINK THROUGH AND ARTICULATE.

**** THIS QUESTION WAS GIVEN TO GROW THE DISCIPLES NOT FOR JESUS TO BE REASSURED ABOUT WHO HE WAS. HE KNEW WHO HE WAS, THE SON OF MAN.

3. BUT HIS DISCIPLES NEEDED TO BE ROOTED IN WHO HE WAS FOR FUTURE MINISTRY. NOW WE SEE THEIR REPLY IN V. 19, LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 19

A. NOW AS WE HARMONIZE MATTHEW 14, MARK 8 AND LUKE 9 OUR TEXT, THE DISCIPLES GIVE 4 RESPONSES TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION, THREE HERE IN LUKE, AND THE OPINIONS RANGED FROM A RESURRECTED JOHN THE BAPTIST, FOR HE HAD ALREADY BEEN BEHEADED.

* TO OTHERS SAYING HE WAS ELIJAH, WHO WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED, OTHERS SAID JEREMIAH WHO WAS DEAD, SO IN TURN WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE RESURRECTED AND OTHERS SAID ONE OF THE PROPHETS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE OTHER DEAD OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS, WHO ACCORDING TO LUKE 9:19 WAS **"RISEN AGAIN"**, ONE OF THE PROPHETS OF OLD HAS RISEN AGAIN.

** SO THE VOTE WAS 25% FOR JOHN, 25% FOR ELIJAH, 25% FOR JEREMIAH AND 25% FOR ONE OF THE OTHER PROPHETS. THE NO. 1 ANSWER JOHN THE BAPTIST, CONCURRED BY HEROD EARLIER IN LUKE 9 IN WHAT HE HEARD INCLUDING ELIJAH AND ONE OF THE PROPHETS OF OLD. SO THE ANSWERS WERE DIVIDED.

1. HOWEVER, POPULAR OPINION AND POLLS **DIDN'T CONTROL** JESUS NOR DID IT CHANGE HIS MESSAGE OR MISSION. HE WAS NOT RUNNING FOR THE OFFICE OF MESSIAH, HE WAS THE MESSIAH.

* BUT UNDERSTAND IN THE ANSWERS GIVEN, IN EACH INSTANCE THE PEOPLE CONSIDERED JESUS TO BE A FORERUNNER OF THE MESSIAH, BUT NOT THE MESSIAH HIMSELF.

** THEY COULD NOT DENY HIS SUPERNATURAL POWER, BUT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT HIM AS MESSIAH AND SAVIOR.

***** BUT THEY CAME AS CLOSE TO GOD'S**
ULTIMATE TRUTH AS THEY COULD WITHOUT
FULLY RECOGNIZING AND ACCEPTING IT.

******** AND LET ME ADD, SINCE **JESUS' DAY, MUCH**
OF THE WORLD HAS SIMILARLY WANTED TO
SPEAK HIGHLY OF JESUS WITHOUT RECOGNIZING
HIS DEITY AND LORDSHIP.

2. BUT ANY RESPONSE THAT FALLS SHORT OF
MESSIAH OR GOD IN THE FLESH IS NOT RIGHT.
WHICH LEADS JESUS TO ASK THIS MOST
IMPORTANT QUESTION TO HIS DISCIPLES. LOOK
AT V. 20A PLEASE.

C. READ V. 20A

A. NOW AFTER THE DISCIPLES REPORTED WHAT
THE MULTITUDES WERE SAYING ABOUT HIM,
**JESUS THEN ASKED, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY
THAT I AM?"**

* AND THE 12 KNEW THAT MOST OF THE **PEOPLE'S OPINIONS OF JESUS WERE** INADEQUATE AND NOT RIGHT. SO NOW THEY HAD TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES.

** AND NOTE A COUPLE OF QUICK THINGS HERE.

*** NO. 1 JESUS KNEW THEIR ANSWER, HE WAS OMNISCIENT, **ALTHOUGH HE WOULDN'T CALL ON** HIS OMNISCIENCE AT ALL TIMES IN HIS INCARNATION, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE 12 TO THINK THROUGH THIS TO MAKE THIS TRUE CONFESSION.

**** FOR YOU SEE THESE MEN, OUTSIDE OF JOHN AND JUDAS, WOULD ONE DAY BE CALLED ON TO BE MARTYRS FOR JESUS, AND YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE MARTYRED FOR A GOOD MAN, AT LEAST I WOULDN'T.

1. SO THIS QUESTION AGAIN IS FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT.

* AND NO. 2, I SAY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT, FOR JESUS IS SPEAKING COLLECTIVELY TO THE 12, THE PERSONAL PRONOUN YOU IS A SECOND PERSON PLURAL. SO JESUS WAS ASKING THE ENTIRE GROUP.

** AND THEIR RESPONSE IS GIVEN BY PETER IN THE REST OF VERSE 20, WHICH IS OUR 2ND POINT TODAY, THE PROFESSION. LOOK AT V. 20 AGAIN PLEASE.

II. THE PROFESSION, (READ V. 20)

A. NOW AS USUAL, THE MOUTH, PETER WAS THE SPOKESMAN, THE DIRECTOR OF THE APOSTOLIC CHOIR.

* AND AS USUAL HIS COMMENTS WERE BRIEF, EMPHATIC AND DECISIVE.

** FOR PETER RESPONDS WITH THIS TRUE PROFESSION, THIS BIBLICAL CONFSSION, THE CHRIST OF GOD, AND IN MATTHEW 16:16, **"THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."**

*** NOW THE WORD CHRIST, CHRISTOS IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE MESSIAH, THE LONG ANTICIPATED SERVANT OF YAHWEH AS THE ANOINTED ONE. CHRIST MEANS ANOINTED ONE.

**** CHRIST IS THE GREEK EQUIVALENT OF THE **HEBREW MESSIAH, GOD'S PREDICTED AND LONG AWAITED DELIVERER OF ISRAEL, THE SUPREME "ANOINTED ONE", THE COMING HIGH PRIEST, KING, PROPHET, AND SAVIOR.**

1. AND WITHOUT HESITATION PETER DECLARED JESUS TO BE THE MESSIAH, WHEREAS THE MULTITUDES OF JEWS BELIEVED HIM TO BE **ONLY THE MESSIAH'S PRECURSOR,** A FORERUNNER OF THE MESSIAH.

* BUT PETER ALSO CONFESSED THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD IN MATTHEW 16:16, AND JESUS THE SON OF MAN IN V. 22 WAS ALSO THE SON OF GOD.

** AND THE WORD SON REFLECTS THE IDEA OF ONENESS IN ESSENCE BECAUSE A SON IS ONE IN NATURE WITH HIS FATHER. SO JESUS CHRIST WAS ONE IN NATURE WITH GOD THE FATHER, ILLUSTRATED IN JOHN 5:18 AND JOHN 10:30 (QUOTE THEM). (BLASPHEMY, YOU BEING A MAN, MAKE YOURSELF OUT TO BE GOD.)

*** SO JESUS WAS THE SON, THE ETERNAL WORD, THE WORD BECAME FLESH, GOD IN A BODY TAKING ON FLESH.

2. BUT THE DISCIPLES LORD WAS SON OF THE LIVING GOD. AND **THE PHRASE "LIVING GOD"** IS USED TO MARK THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TRUE GOD AND THE DEITIES OF THE SURROUNDING CULTURES.

* HE IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE, NOT A LIFELESS MYTH OR A DEAD IDOL. AND THE PHRASE LIVING GOD IS AN OLD TESTAMENT NAME FOR JEHOVAH IN JEREMIAH 10:10A WHERE IT SAYS: **"BUT THE LORD** JEHOVAH IS THE TRUE GOD; HE IS THE LIVING GOD AND THE EVERLASTING **KING."**

** IN PSALM 42:1&2 IT SAYS: (QUOTE V. 1)

V. 2 - MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR GOD, THE LIVING GOD.

*** AND THE PHRASE LIVING GOD IS CONTRASTED WITH THE DEAD DUMB IDOLS IN OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TIMES, USED 30 TIMES IN THE BIBLE, QUOTE I TIMOTHY 3:15, I TIMOTHY 4:10 AND HEBREWS 10:31.

**** AND SO JESUS IS THE LIVING GOD, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD IN CONTRAST TO ALL THE DEAD IDOLS AND DEITIES THAT PAGANS WORSHIP.

3. SO **PETER'S CONFESSION IS A TRUE** CONFESSION, A GREAT CONFESSION FOR JESUS IS THE CHRIST OF GOD, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

* BUT GET THIS, THIS CONFESSION DID NOT **COME FROM PETER'S** OBSERVATIONS OF JESUS AS MIRACULOUS AS THEY WERE, BUT WAS A REVELATION OF THE FATHER IN HEAVEN, WHICH TAKES US BACK TO MATTHEW 16:17 WHICH SAYS: AND JESUS SAID TO HIM (PETER), BLESSED ARE YOU, SIMON BARJONA BECAUSE FLESH AND BLOOD DID NOT REVEAL THIS TO YOU, **BUT MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN."**

** NOW ALTHOUGH LUKE DOES NOT RECORD THIS, I WANT TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO DEVELOP WHAT MATTHEW WAS INSPIRED TO SAY AT THIS SAME TIME.

*** AND THAT IS **JESUS' RESPONSE** TO PETER WAS TO DECLARE HIM BLESSED, NOT WRONG, JESUS DID NOT CORRECT PETER BUT CALLED HIM BLESSED. THE GREEK WORD MAKARIOS, USED 9 TIMES IN THE BEATITUDES IN MATTHEW 5:3-11.

**** AND LIT. THIS WORD MEANS HAPPY, HOW HAPPY, BLESSED ONE, ONE WHO POSSESSES THE FAVOR OF GOD, THE STATE OF BEING MARKED BY FULLNESS FROM GOD, A FULLY SATISFIED STATE NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. **AND PETER WAS A RECIPIENT OF GOD'S FAVOR THAT MADE HIM BLESSED, OR BLESSED, FOR YOU SEE PETER'S CONFESSION WAS THE RESULT OF DIVINE ILLUMINATION.**

*** GOD THE FATHER HAD OPENED PETER'S EYES TO WHO JESUS REALLY WAS.**

**** IN OTHER WORDS, GOD HAD OPENED PETER'S HEART TO THIS DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST BY FAITH.**

2. PETER WAS NOT EXPRESSING SOMETHING THAT HE CAME UP WITH ON HIS OWN, OR EVEN **BY WHAT HE SAW OF JESUS' MIRACLES.**

* THE MACARTHUR STUDY BIBLE SAYS AT THIS POINT, **"THIS WAS A CONFESSION OF PETER'S PERSONAL FAITH, MADE POSSIBLE BY A DIVINELY REGENERATED HEART."** (END QUOTE)

**** AND BELOVED, "FLESH AND BLOOD" DID NOT REVEAL THIS TO PETER, MEANING MAN DID NOT REVEAL THIS TO HIM, HUMAN BEINGS OR PEOPLE DID NOT REVEAL THIS TO HIM, THIS DID NOT COME FROM HUMAN CALCULATION OR INTUITION, BUT FROM CHRIST'S FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

*** SO JESUS SAID, SIMON BARJONA, SIMON THE SON OF JONAH OR JONAS, YOU ARE BLESSED ABOVE MEASURE BECAUSE BY GRACE THE CONFESSION YOU JUST MADE CAME BY REVELATION OF MY FATHER.

**** FOR THE WORD REVEAL OR REVEALED IN THE GREEK LIT. MEANS TO MAKE KNOWN OR TO MAKE MANIFEST, TO DISCLOSE WHAT BEFORE WAS UNKNOWN.

3. WHICH REMINDS US THAT KNOW JESUS AND THAT CAN MAKE THE WONDERFUL CONFESSION MADE BY PETER, THAT IT WAS A WORK OF SOVEREIGN GRACE BY GOD THE FATHER THAT REVEALED TO US WHO JESUS IS AND BROUGHT US TO JESUS, JOHN 1:13. OUR NEW BIRTH WHICH GAVE US LIFE HAPPENED BECAUSE GOD WILLED IT, THE NIV SAYS CHILDREN BORN NOT OF NATURAL DESCENT, NOR OF HUMAN **DECISION ON A HUSBAND'S WILL BUT BORN OF GOD.**

* AND AS JESUS SAID IN JOHN 6:44 AND JOHN **6:65, "NO ONE CAN COME TO ME, UNLESS THE FATHER DRAWS HIM, NO ONE CAN COME TO JESUS UNLESS IT HAS BEEN GRANTED FROM THE FATHER."**

** AND I REMIND YOU BELIEVER OF THAT BECAUSE IT HELPS US HAVE PROPER PERSPECTIVE, THAT WE NEVER BOAST OF HOW WE CAME TO CHRIST, BUT HOW HE CAME TO US AND SAVED US BY HIS GRACE, BY HIS WILL, REVEALING TO US WHO JESUS REALLY IS, THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. (NEVER FORGET THAT). FOR WE NEVER WOULD HAVE COME TO THAT CONCLUSION ON OUR OWN BEING DEAD SPIRITUALLY.

*** AND BELOVED THOSE KINDS OF PROFESSIONS OF FAITH ARE NOT NATURAL IN THEIR SOURCE, FROM IN US, BUT ARE SUPERNATURAL, A WORK OF GRACE FROM THE FATHER. SO PETER MAKES THIS GREAT PROFESSION, CONFESSION OF FAITH.

**** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PROHIBITION. LOOK AT V. 21 PLEASE.

III. THE PROHIBITION, (READ V. 21)

A. NOW THE VERB WARNED OR CHARGED AND COMMANDED LIT. MEANS TO ORDER, TO ADMONISH, TO SET FORTH DISTINCTLY.

* SO IN ESSENCE, WE BASICALLY HAVE A COMMAND HERE TO THE DISCIPLES, NOT TO TELL ANYONE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH.

** NOW THAT REALLY SEEMS ODD. I MEAN WHY WOULD JESUS COMMAND AT THAT TIME, THEY SHOULD TELL NO ONE THAT HE IS THE CHRIST? **WASN'T THAT WHAT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO DO?**

*** WELL, THE REASON FOR THAT WAS, THE **PEOPLE'S VIEW OF THE CHRIST, ESPECIALLY THE JEWS**, HAD TO DO WITH A POLITICAL DELIVERER, A MILITARY, POLITICAL MESSIAH WHO WOULD DELIVER ISRAEL FROM ROMAN BONDAGE AND SET UP A PHYSICAL KINGDOM.

**** THE JEWS WERE NOT LOOKING FOR A SAVIOR TO SET THEM FREE FROM SIN, BUT A MESSIAH WHO WOULD SET THEM FREE FROM ROME.

1. SO AT THIS POINT OF JESUS' MINISTRY, HE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON TRAINING THE 12 FOR FUTURE MINISTRY THROUGH THE CHURCH, FOR WHAT WOULD THEY DO, PROCLAIM CHRIST AND PLANT CHURCHES WHEN PEOPLE BELIEVED, THEN EQUIP THE SAINTS, ORDAIN ELDERS, THEN REPEAT THE PROCESS.

* AND JESUS WAS ON A DIVINE TIMETABLE, AND HE WOULD DIE AT THE EXACT MOMENT PREDETERMINED, AND HE NEEDED MORE TIME TO EQUIP THE 12, SO RATHER THAN START AN UPROAR AND ACCELERATE ANYTHING, JESUS TOLD THEM NOT TO COMMUNICATE WHAT PETER JUST COMMUNICATED IN V. 20, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST OF GOD."

** AND FOR SOME TO HEAR THAT, THEY WOULD MISUNDERSTAND AND TRY TO TAKE HIM BY FORCE AND GET INTO HIS REIGN NOW ON EARTH.

*** FOR JOHN 6:15 SAYS AFTER FEEDING THE 5,000 - "SO JESUS, PERCEIVING THAT THEY WERE INTENDING TO COME AND TAKE HIM BY FORCE TO MAKE HIM KING, WITHDREW AGAIN TO THE MOUNTAIN BY HIMSELF ALONE."

**** FOR OTHERS, THEY WOULD WANT TO KILL HIM THAT MUCH MORE FOR BLASPHEMY, JOHN 5:18.

***** SO FOR THAT TIME, THE DISCIPLES WERE **TO KEEP QUIET, SO THE MASTER'S PLAN OF** WORLD EVANGELISM WOULD BE FULFILLED, TO EQUIP THE 12, THE FOUNDATION OF THE FUTURE CHURCH AND WORLD EVANGELISM.

- WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE PERPLEXING. LOOK AT V. 22 PLEASE.

IV. THE PERPLEXITY, (READ V. 22)

A. NOW IF JESUS' PROHIBITION IN V. 21 FOR THEM TO NOT SPREAD THE TRUTH THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH PUZZLED THE 12, THIS VERSE, VERSE 22, MUST HAVE FLOORED THEM AND CAUSED THEM A LOT OF PERPLEXITY.

* FOR HERE WE HAVE WHAT IS CALLED THE FIRST PASSION PREDICTION, THE FIRST PASSION PROPHECY BY JESUS IN HIS OWN WORDS IN A CLEAR STATEMENT.

** AND ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN **FORESHADOWINGS OF CHRIST'S FATE BY** SIMEON EARLIER IN LUKE 2:35 AND BY CHRIST THAT THE BRIDEGROOM WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM IN LUKE 5:35, THIS IS THE FIRST EXPLICIT STATEMENT IN LUKE THAT JESUS WOULD DIE AND RISE AGAIN.

***** THUS CHRIST'S PATH WOULD NOT LEAD TO A THRONE AS THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE, BUT TO A CROSS, TO DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION.**

**** THE CROWN WAS NOT AHEAD FOR JESUS BUT THE CROSS, SUFFERING.

1. AND THIS WAS NOT THE AGENDA THE APOSTLES HAD IN MIND FOR JESUS. FROM THEIR VANTAGE POINT, THE FUTURE LOOKED BRIGHT. JESUS HAD BEEN WINNING VICTORIES AT EVERY TURN.

* HIS POLL NUMBERS MUST HAVE LOOKED GOOD.

** HE SILENCED HIS CRITICS WITH FLAWLESS LOGIC, HE HEALED MULTITUDES, HE PUT DEMONS TO FLIGHT, HE TAUGHT SPELLBINDING LESSONS.

*** AS A RESULT, HE ATTRACTED A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT WERE FOLLOWING HIM AROUND.

*** WHAT DO YOU MEAN **YOU'RE GOING TO SUFFER AND DIE?** YOU ARE THE CHRIST!

**** **THUS PETER'S CONFESSION WAS TRUE;** HOWEVER, WHAT WAS AHEAD FOR JESUS WAS NOT A DIRECT ROUTE TO GLORY, POWER AND **PRIVILEGE WAS NOT CHRIST'S POLITICAL DESTINY.**

2. FOR LOOK BACK TO VERSE 22 PLEASE, "THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER MANY THINGS."

* NOT MIGHT, NOT MAYBE, BUT MUST. THIS **WAS THE FATHER'S UNALTERABLE PLAN.** ISAIAH 53 WOULD BE FULFILLED. SUFFERING PRECEDES GLORY.

** **THE DISCIPLES MUST UNDERSTAND GOD'S TRUE PLAN EXPLAINED TO THEM BEFORE THEY CAN PROCLAIM THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH TO OTHERS.**

*** SO THEY NEEDED TO BE QUIET ABOUT WHO JESUS WAS UNTIL THEY TRULY UNDERSTOOD ALL THE RAMIFICATIONS OF WHAT IT MEANT TO BE THE CHRIST OF GOD.

**** **THUS WE HAVE WHAT'S CALLED THE MESSIANIC SECRET FOR THE 12 UNTIL THEY TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS WOULD DO, AND WHAT HE CAME TO DO, TO DIE, NOT REIGN.**

3. I MEAN IF THEY WERE TO TELL ABOUT JESUS AT THIS POINT, THEY WOULD GIVE A HALF-GOSPEL, THAT WAS REALLY NO GOSPEL AT ALL **IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION.** THEY WOULD FIRST NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF MESSIAH JESUS WAS.

* AND WHAT KIND OF MESSIAH WOULD JESUS BE?

** WELL FOUR INFINITIVE VERBS TELL US. OUR LORD SAID IT WAS NECESSARY FOR:

*** NO. 1 TO **"SUFFER"**, **FOR HE WAS THE** SUFFERING SERVANT OF JEHOVAH IN ISAIAH 52:13 – ISAIAH 53:12.

**** **NO. 2 HE MUST "BE REJECTED", THUS THE STONE REJECTED BY ISRAEL'S BUILDERS WOULD** BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE, PSALM 118:22 AND LUKE 20:17.

4. AND JESUS WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY, THE SANHEDRIN, THE JEWISH RULING COUNCIL SPECIFICALLY **HERE IN LUKE 9:22, "THE ELDERS, CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES."**

* NO. 3 JESUS **WOULD BE "KILLED" WHICH** MAKES REFERENCE TO THE CROSS AND JESUS **CHRIST'S** SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONING DEATH.

** **AND NO. 4 "BE RAISED", WE SERVE A RISEN** LORD, NOT A DEAD LORD, RAISED THE THIRD DAY FROM THE DEAD.

*** JESUS THE CHRIST MUST SUFFER, BE REJECTED, BE KILLED AND BE RAISED. HALLELUJAH WHAT A SAVIOR!

TWO QUICK APPLICATIONS TODAY: (1) NO. 1 WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

* A GOOD MAN, A PROPHET, A SUPERSTAR, A TEACHER, A MARTYR OR THE ONLY SAVIOR, THE MESSIAH, JEHOVAH, PRINCE OF PEACE, SON OF MAN, SON OF GOD, IMMANUEL, THE MIGHTY GOD.

** YOUR ANSWER IS OF ETERNAL IMPORTANCE, FOR IF YOU SAY HE IS LORD, IT MEANS THAT BY **GOD'S GRACE YOU HAVE BOWED THE KNEE TO HIM**, AND HE IS YOUR MASTER.

*** IT MUST BE MORE THAN WORDS, BUT LIFE, ACTIONS THAT PRECEDE BY GOD THE FATHER REVEALING TO YOU AND REGENERATING YOU TO KNOW CHRIST.

**** AND **IF YOU DON'T TRULY KNOW HIM AS** THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE, AS THE CREATOR AND SUSTAINER, AND YOUR SAVIOR, COME IN REPENTANT FAITH TO HIM, ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR SIN AND TURNING FROM IT TO TRUST HIM AS YOUR MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

(2) BUT NO. 2, WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR BELIEFS ABOUT CHRIST, WHEN IT COMES TO CONVICTIONS, WHERE DO YOU GET THEM?

* THE DOCTRINES YOU BELIEVE, ARE THEY ROOTED IN POPULAR OPINION, IN A MAJORITY VIEW, **IN WHAT IS IN VOGUE OR IS "FAIR"?** AMERICAN, MAN CENTERED, WHAT THE LATEST POLL SAYS?

** OR ARE YOUR BELIEFS ROOTED IN THE WORD OF GOD AND WHAT GOD SAYS, RATHER THAN WHAT THE OPINIONS OF OTHER BELIEVERS ARE OR EVEN WHAT THE WORLD SAYS.

*** WE NEED TO BE MEN AND WOMEN OF CONVICTION AND NOT COMPROMISE. AND OUR CONVICTIONS MUST BE ROOTED IN THE UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD AND NOT THE POLLS OF MEN.

**** AND MANY TIMES IN A GROWING CULTURE OF PLURALISM, YOU WILL BE VIEWED AS NARROW, BUT STAND ON THE TRUTHS THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS REVEALED TO YOU THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD, AND WITH COMPASSION AND CONVICTION, LIVE BY THEM.

(3) FOR OUR CONVICTIONS COME BY THE REVELATION OF THE FATHER BY HIS GRACE, **THAT WE CAN SAY AND LIVE, "JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."** THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONFESSION! **(LET'S PRAY)**