

# Luke 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

## Analysis

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Jesus asks: 'But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.' This confession marks a turning point. The Greek 'Christos' (Χριστός, Christ/Messiah) and 'tou theou' (τοῦ θεοῦ, of God) identify Jesus as God's anointed one—the long-awaited Messiah. Peter's confession, representing the twelve, shows their growing faith and understanding. Jesus immediately begins teaching about His suffering, death, and resurrection (v. 22), showing that true messianic understanding requires embracing the cross, not just the crown. Confessing Jesus as Christ demands following Him to suffering.

## Historical Context

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This occurred at Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13), a pagan city with temples to Greek gods and Caesar worship. In this context of false deities, Jesus asks who He truly is. Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ fulfilled Jewish messianic hope but needed correction—first-century Jews expected a political-military messiah to overthrow Rome. Jesus' immediate teaching about suffering redefined messiahship: victory through suffering, kingdom through cross, glory through humiliation. This confession became foundational for Christian faith—Jesus is the Christ, God's anointed Savior.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What does Peter's confession that Jesus is 'the Christ of God' reveal about growing faith and understanding of Jesus' identity?
2. How does Jesus' immediate teaching about suffering correct misconceptions about what it means for Him to be the Messiah?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν	δὲ	αὐτοῖς	ὑμεῖς	δὲ	τίνα	με	λέγετε	εἶναι
He said	But	unto them	ye	But	whom	that I	say	am
G2036	G1161	G846	G5210	G1161	G5101	G3165	G3004	G1511
ἀποκριθεὶς	δὲ	ὁ	Πέτρος	εἶπεν	Τὸν	Χριστὸν	τοῦ	θεοῦ
answering	But		Peter	He said		The Christ		of God
G611	G1161	G3588	G4074	G2036	G3588	G5547	G3588	G2316

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 7:41** (References Christ): Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

**John 4:29** (References Christ): Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

**Acts 9:22** (References Christ): But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

**Acts 8:36** (Parallel theme): And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

**Acts 17:3** (References Christ): Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

**Mark 8:29** (References Christ): And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

**John 4:42** (References Christ): And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

**John 1:41** (References Christ): He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

**John 20:31** (References Christ): But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

**John 11:27** (References Christ): She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.