

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

εἶπεν δὲ αὐτοῖς Ὑμεῖς δὲ τίνα με λέγετε εἰναί

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** **G3588** **Peter** **He said** **G3588** **The Christ** **G3588** **of God**
G611 G1161 G4074 G2036 G5547 G2316

Additional Cross-References

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 Messias, 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.