

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****MARK 8****Mark 8**

Mark eight continues the miraculous path of Jesus as he heals the sick, raises the dead, and travels throughout the Galilee. In Mark six, Jesus fed five thousand near the ancient city of Bethsaida, where five of his disciples came from, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, the sons of Zebedee and Philip. In fact, all the disciples of Jesus were from the Galilee except one, Judas Iscariot. Judas was the "man of Kerioth." "Ish" is the word for "man" in Hebrew, and Kerioth is the name of the town in Judea, not far from Jerusalem. Judas Iscariot is the man from Kerioth.

Chapter eight begins with another feeding of multitudes in a different place, and the number this time is four thousand, not five. All of these stories have parallel accounts in other gospels, as Mark was more than likely a primary source of information. Luke tells us he used other sources and that in no way discounts Divine inspiration in any way. The words Mark recorded were Divinely inspired, so we should not be surprised that other writers used what had been written. Jesus had constant attacks from religious leaders everywhere He went. The closer He came to the time of His death, the more intense and intentional the attacks. Jesus warned the disciples that they should beware of the teachings of the Pharisees and their emphasis on traditions that contradicted the TaNaK, the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings, what we call the Old Testament books. Beginning in v. 27, Mark records Jesus traveling north to the water and high country in the northernmost border of the country. Caesarea Philippi lies at the foot of Mount Herman and was the capital of the entire region

during the days of Jesus. Matthew records a fuller version of Peter's encounter with Jesus there and Peter's confession that Jesus indeed was the Messiah.

After this time, the Lord began to plainly tell His disciples that he would be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and would be killed, but He would rise from the dead after three days. This was such an affront to Peter that He rebuked the Lord. Jesus then attributed what Peter was saying to Satan himself and rebuked Peter. Jesus then called the people together along with His disciples and began to speak to them about their commitment to Him, saying,

***"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."***  
(vv.34b-38)

Jesus, knowing He was going to die, challenged those who would follow Him to realize if they desired God's best and God's way, they must die to themselves and the slavery of sin and allow the resurrected life of Jesus by the Holy Spirit to live in and through them, dominating their lives.

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*Jesus the Messiah is not an add-on, an upgrade, an appendix, or an addendum to your life. Jesus Christ does not want to be a part of your life. He wants to be your life. He desires to control every aspect of your life. After all, He made you, and if He is your Lord, He has made you brand new. You are born into a new life. Lord, please enable me to make the choice right now to be crucified with You so that I might know and experience the power of Your resurrection. Amen.*