

“Get Behind Me Satan – Part 2”
Mark 8:31-33
(Preached at Trinity, March 14, 2012)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In our previous section Jesus asked the all important question:
Mark 8:29 NAU - "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." We saw in Matthew's Gospel the full answer of Peter:
Matthew 16:16 NAU - "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"
 2. To this Jesus gave His wonderful affirmation of Peter's faith and declaration of the great strength of His church.
Matthew 16:17-19 NAU - "And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
 3. Peter gave the correct answer—"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." But it is also important to understand that at this point Peter's understanding was still quite deficient regarding the full nature of Christ and His work. In many ways Peter was still holding on to the Jewish concept of the Messiah.
 - A. He was to come as an earthly ruler, a political leader with great power and might who would conquer all of Israel's enemies and rule with absolute authority over the nations.
 - B. This misunderstanding of Jesus showed itself in many different ways.
Matthew 20:20-21 NAU - "Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. ²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."
John 6:14-15 NAS - "When therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is of a truth the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone."
- John 18:10-11 NAU** - "Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"
- Acts 1:6 NAU** - "So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

- C. Matthew Henry – “The disciples, having sucked in this notion with their milk that the Messiah was to be a temporal prince, were long before they could be brought to have any idea of his kingdom as spiritual.”
4. So you can imagine how shocked Peter was to hear the next words to proceed out of the mouth of Christ.
- Mark 8:31-32 NAU** - "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² And He was stating the matter plainly."
- Mark states that Jesus was speaking “plainly” with an openness never before displayed. In the past He may have used parables to veil and conceal but not now! He was speaking clearly and plainly.
5. How could this be?!? Was Jesus actually saying that the Messiah, the King, the long awaited ruler would be killed.
- Notice who the perpetrators were: the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes. These were those designated as the watchmen for the people. They were going to kill their own Messiah.
 - The words were so shocking that Peter didn’t even hear the optimistic outcome: “and after three days rise again.”
6. Peter thought that Jesus was surely mistaken. What would the multitudes think if they heard Jesus talk like this? So with the best of intentions he thought it was essential that he correct Jesus.
- Notice, he took Jesus aside. He loved Jesus. He didn’t want to publically correct Him.
 - The word for rebuke usually is used to signify a stern censure or warning.
- Luke 19:39** – “And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”
7. The text signifies that Peter had only begun when Jesus interrupted. Notice in **Verse 33** that while Peter took Jesus to the side to rebuke Him Jesus admonished Peter openly. There are times to be discreet. There are other times when a public rebuke is in order.
8. Our Lord’s reply was scathing:
- Mark 8:33 NAU** - "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
- He implied that Peter had taken on the role of Satan to attack and discourage the work of Christ.
9. This text reminds us of some very important truths regarding Satan and our spiritual warfare. This is a very important subject for us. Over and over in the NT we are warned to be on a constant state of alert.
- In Luke’s Gospel Jesus warns Peter -
- Luke 22:31** – “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”
- The word for “Behold” is Ἰδοὺ – “behold, take note, pay attention” It is an equivalent of saying, “Watch out!” Peter can never complain that he wasn’t warned
 - Satan was desiring to “sift Peter as wheat” – to shake vigorously Symbolizing the shaking or trying of his faith.

- B. Jesus warned Peter, James and John of the great spiritual dangers in **Verse 41**
Matthew 26:41 NAU- "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
 - C. After learning from experience Peter warns us of the power of this enemy:
1 Peter 5:8-9 NAU- "Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."
9. Satan is cunning, deceptive and crafty – and he hates you. Yet, the Bible gives us sufficient information about this enemy that we might not be caught off guard.
- 2 Corinthians 2:11 NAU-** "so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."