

I. THE CONFESSION AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI

A. **After the 3rd Galilean Tour and after the brief visit to Syro-Phoenicia Jesus took His disciples North to Caesarea Philippi. It was time for some private teaching for His disciples.**

1. **In CP Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matt. 16:13).**
 - a. An important question. They had heard Him preach, they had seen His miracles. What did the people think about Him?
 - b. The disciples answered: some say John the B., others say Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.
 - c. But Jesus had a second more personal question: "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt. 16:16)
2. **What a wonderful confession! Christ! The Son of the Living God! Jesus pronounced blessing on Peter.**
 - a. God revealed this to you, Peter. You did not learn this from any man, but from God Himself.
 - b. This confession is a strong, sturdy truth, and on it, on this rock, on this truth, I will build my church.
 - c. But, He said, do not tell anyone that I am the Christ! Why not? Because if the people knew that Jesus was the Christ they would become too excited. *They still did not understand what Christ means.*

B. **At that time, just when Jesus had said that He is the Christ, Jesus starts to teach them about His sufferings and death which would happen on the cross at Jerusalem.**

1. **Jesus did not want His disciples to be surprised; they need to be ready for what would happen.**
 - a. Jesus was leaving Galilee and soon He would be in Jerusalem. But terrible things would happen in Jerusalem. He would be put to death and then He would rise again.
 - b. This did not fit into the disciples' ideas or plans about Christ. Christ does not suffer! He is a king!
 - c. What Jesus was saying just made no sense to them, but He kept repeating it as they went to Jerusalem.
2. **Peter was very angry and upset about these words of suffering. He took Jesus aside and scolded Him.**
 - a. "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee" (Matt. 16:22).
 - b. But Jesus instead scolded Peter. He saw through Peter to the devil who was tempting Peter and tempting Him through Peter. The devil wanted to turn Jesus away from the way of suffering.
 - c. "Get thee behind me, Satan. Thou art an offense unto me!" He said (Matt. 16:23).

II. THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

A. **Six days after this Jesus & His disciples were at a certain mountain where Jesus desired to pray. Jesus took with Him only 3 of His 12 disciples, Peter, James & John. The other 9 disciples stayed at the foot of the Mt.**

1. **As Jesus prayed something happened called Christ's *Transfiguration*. His appearance was changed.**
 - a. As the three disciples watched Jesus began to shine more brightly than the sun! The clothes of Jesus became white, whiter, says the Bible, than any washing powder or detergent could make them white!
 - b. What the disciples saw was glory, *the glory of Jesus*. II Peter 1:17-18 (our memory verse) speaks of this. "He received from God the Father honor and glory."
 - c. This was important for Jesus too: Jesus had just spoken about His suffering and death, and now He gets a peek, a taste of the glory which will be His after His death. What an encouragement for Jesus!
2. **When Jesus was transfigured two others figures joined Him from Heaven: Moses and Elijah.**
 - a. These two men are important in the OT: Moses gave the law, Elijah was a prophet. And they talked with Jesus. What do you think they talked about? "His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31). That means that Moses & Elijah had come to talk to Jesus about the cross!
 - b. You see the believers in the OT (Moses and Elijah & all the rest) are very interested in the cross because they know that the cross will mean for them the forgiveness of sins!
 - c. And so they appear to encourage Jesus to keep going: we need you to go to the cross, Jesus; without the cross our sins are not paid for; and look at the glory that will be yours.
3. **Peter was amazed by what he saw, and he did not know what to say. "Lord, it is good for us to be here, and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias" (Luke 9:33).**
 - a. Perhaps Peter was putting all three on the same level, or perhaps Peter did not want that moment to end. Up on the mountain all thoughts of what Jesus had said earlier about suffering and death in Jerusalem were forgotten. Could we not just stay here forever?
 - b. But suddenly a cloud came down from heaven and covered them, and God spoke from Heaven: "*This is my beloved Son, hear Him*" (Luke 9:35).
 - c. And then the cloud was gone, Moses & Elijah were gone, the glory was gone, and Jesus stood alone. And Jesus said to Peter, James & John, *Do not tell anyone what you saw until after the Resurrection.*

B. Meanwhile, at the bottom of the mountain, the other nine disciples were in difficulty. Jesus arrived to see an argument, a debate, between the disciples, the Pharisees and the multitude.

- 1. When Jesus arrived the crowd ran to meet Him. One of the men came forward and told his story.**
 - a. "Master," he said, "I have brought to thee my son which hath a dumb spirit." Here is another person under the control of the devil. Remember the demoniacs in the land of the Gadarenes, the demon-possessed daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman, and now this little boy!
 - b. This poor little boy could not speak, and the devil who controlled him made his life a misery. The father explained: the demon tears him, the demon makes him foam at the mouth and gnash with his teeth. Sometimes, the demon even throws him into the fire or into the water to kill him. What misery!
 - c. And, this man had heard that Jesus was in the area and had come for help. But. Since Jesus was up the mountain, he asked the disciples to cast out the demon *but they could not!* And the scribes & Pharisees are arguing with the disciples. *If Jesus' disciples cannot cast out demons, what does that say about Jesus?*
- 2. Jesus commanded the man to bring his son to Him, and when the little boy saw Jesus, the demon began to make the boy fall on the ground, to squirm, to tear him and to foam at the mouth.**
 - a. The man was a believer but his faith was weak so he said, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9:24).
 - b. Jesus then said to the demon in the boy: "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him" (Mark 9:25).
 - c. The demon screamed, shook the boy one last time, and the boy lay still. The people thought the boy was dead, but Jesus took the boy by the hand, lifted him up and gave him to his father. *What joy!*

III. THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY & THE MAN BORN BLIND

A. After this, Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Tabernacles. While there the Pharisees wanted to arrest Him because they hated Him. Every time He had been to Jerusalem before they had wanted to kill Him.

- 1. They had a plan to trap Him. While He was teaching in the Temple they dragged before Him a woman.**
 - a. We do not know her name. But we know she was a terrible sinner. The Pharisees had caught her sleeping with a man who was not her husband. She was an adulteress.
 - b. Now the Law of Moses said that a woman caught in adultery must die by having stones thrown at her, but what would Jesus say? Would Jesus stone her? Would Jesus defend her? Whatever He did they could accuse Him. They did not care about the woman. She was just a tool in their wicked plan.
 - c. Jesus said to them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). And the Pharisees were not able to answer Him. *And Jesus then forgave the woman.*
- 2. Later as Jesus was walking along, He and His disciples passed a man who was born blind.**
 - a. Jesus walked up to the blind beggar, and without a word He spat on the ground, made some clay, smeared it on the man's eyes and told him to go wash himself in a certain pool (Siloam). And when he did so, he could see!
 - b. The neighbors of the man recognized him. He was the one who had begged for all those years, and now he was walking around seeing. How could this be? The beggar explained, "A man that is called Jesus made clay and anointed mine eyes and said unto me. Go to the pool of Siloam and wash, and I went and washed, and I received sight" (John 9:11). *What a miracle, a man born blind now sees!*

B. But, for the Pharisees there was a problem. Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath Day.

- 1. Jesus had made clay (that was work, they said) on the Sabbath Day. For them that was proof that Jesus was a sinner and not sent by God. Of course, there was the miracle. They could not explain that.**
 - a. So they called the beggar who had been blind and asked him to explain himself. Had he been born blind? Yes. How was he now able to see? He explained again what Jesus did: "He made clay, anointed my eyes, sent me to wash my eyes and now I see."
 - b. Then they called the man's parents. "Is this your son? Was he born blind? How can he now see?" The parents did not know and were afraid to say so they said, "Ask him yourself."
 - c. So the Pharisees called the man back: "We know this Jesus is a sinner because He does not keep the Sabbath Day holy," they said. "One thing I know, said the blind man, that whereas I was blind, now I see." *And the Pharisees were so angry with the man that they threw him out of the synagogue!*
- 2. Later Jesus found the man, worshipping in the temple. "Do you believe in the Son of God?" Jesus asked. "Who is, Lord, that I might believe on Him?," he answered.**
 - a. Jesus' answer was beautiful: "Thou hast both seen Him and it is He that talketh with thee" (John 9:37).
 - b. "I believe," said the man, who had been blind, and he worshipped Jesus.
 - c. Jesus saved the man, not only from blindness, but, also from sin. *but the Pharisees remained blind.*