

Following Christ: The Package Deal

Read: Mark 8:27-38

Who is Jesus?

Our answer to this question made us personally decide to be a Christian; it also brought us in Egypt; it is central in our work.

Peter knew the right answer. Jesus is not just a prophet but the Christ, the Son of the Living God . (cf. Matthew and Luke)

His Cross

Immediately after this recognition of the divinity of Jesus, He starts talking about His coming suffering, death and resurrection.

The response of Peter to that? Never! He rebuked Jesus. This was an utterly human, logical response. God cannot suffer, can He?

Our Cross

But I guess there was another reason why Peter responded so upset. He realised that following Christ is one thing, but following a suffering Christ is another.

Anyone who follow the Son of God who died is to deny himself, take up his own cross, and lose his life for the Gospel. There are no options.

Package Deal

To be ashamed of the suffering Master, and to avoid the suffering that goes with following Him, is to deny Him. Then He will be ashamed of us.

If we truly follow this suffering Lord, we are to expect forms of suffering in our own lives, in our ministries, in our work. Sharing in His glory is only through sharing in His suffering. It is a package deal.