

# INVESTIGATIVE BIBLE DISCUSSION

## Luke 9:18-27

[18] Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

[19] They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

[20] “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

[21] Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. [22] And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

[23] Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. [24] For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. [25] What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? [26] If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. [27] I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

## Questions

1. Highlight the main and minor characters
2. Where or when does the story take place?
3. What are the key events, activities or ideas presented in this passage?
4. How did the characters respond to Jesus personally, to what he said, or to what they saw?
5. How is Jesus described (by himself or others, claims made, character traits displayed)?
6. What values were taught/demonstrated by Jesus?
7. What truths/principles, were taught or demonstrated by Jesus?
8. What conclusions or observations can you draw?

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## BACKGROUND

Jesus was traveling with his 12 disciples in the area of Caesarea Philippi. An area 24 miles north of Capernaum, it was a Gentile area which afforded Jesus more personal time to teach the 12 disciples.

Jesus restrained the public proclamation of his claim as Messiah possibly due to the people's enthusiasm for a political deliverer from the oppression and domination of Rome.

## KEY WORDS

**John the Baptist:** John was Jesus' cousin and had a primary mission of declaring that the kingdom of God was at hand. He introduced Jesus earlier as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John had recently been executed by Herod.

**Christ:** A title meaning Messiah, God's anointed, the long awaited One. The Old Testament Jewish expectation for a coming Messiah incorporated a Mediator as Chief Prophet, only High Priest and Eternal King.

**Kingdom of God:** Used in various ways but always implying "the place where God rules". Here Jesus is referring to that new historical reality that would result from and directly precede his death and resurrection.