

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Princeton, MN

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Monday, February 22, 2021

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. “Jesus asked His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”³⁰ And He strictly charged them to tell no one about Him.³¹ 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” (Mark 8:29-31).

Many people are described by their profession. Someone is called a doctor, that is someone who practices Medicine. Someone is called a farmer, you know that they farm the land. Someone is called a teacher, you know that they teach kids. Jesus is called the Christ, that means that He the One to save the world. Many people have in their own mind what the Christ should do. In Mark chapter 8 we read that Jesus is called the Christ by Peter and then Jesus follows that confession with what the Christ will do. He says, “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.” Peter did not like that answer. Peter pulled Jesus aside and rebuked Him, saying, “This shall never happen to you.” Peter had a different idea of what the work of Christ should be. Maybe he thought that the Christ would defeat the earthly physical enemies of Israel and rule an earthly kingdom from the Temple in Jerusalem.

It is usually not a good idea to tell a doctor how to do the work of a doctor, or to tell a teacher how to be a teacher, or a farmer how to be a farmer. It usually does not go over very well. Peter was telling Jesus how to be the Christ and it did not go over very well. Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me Satan.” Peter had it wrong, the work of Christ was not to defeat the earthly physical enemies, but His work was to defeat our spiritual enemies of sin, death and the power of the devil. And He would do that by “suffering many things and being rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” And when that work was finished, He will rule a spiritual kingdom which will have no end. During the Season of Lent, we see Jesus, the Christ, headed to the Cross and the Empty Tomb to do the Work of the Christ to save the world.

God bless, Pastor Tischer