

REALIZING WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

MARK 8:31-38

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — JUNE 5, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38 ESV

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. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON RECAP

Review from Previous Weeks

- In Mark 8:14-21, Jesus speaks with his disciples in the boat. The disciples argue about not having bread, when the Bread of Life is with them in the boat. They see Jesus' great works, but fail to realize who Jesus is, because they can't see clearly.
- In Mark 8:22-26, we see a man's physical sight restored in two stages. The man can see partly, and then he can see perfectly.
- In Mark 8:27-30, Jesus asks His disciples who He is and Peter responds for them, "You are the Christ" (the Messiah). They can see partly, but Mark 8:31-38 reveals that they can't yet see perfectly.

Disciples' Spiritual Sight Problems

Who the disciples wanted Jesus to be:

- They wanted someone who would save their nation.
- They wanted someone who would give them power.
- They wanted someone who would make them prosperous.
- They wanted someone who would draw the crowds.
- They wanted someone who would not demand their lives.

Who Jesus really is:

- He is the Savior of all the nations.
- He is the humble Son of Man.
- He is the suffering Servant.
- He is despised by the crowds.
- He is the King who will conquer by being killed.

What it really means to follow Jesus:

- It means you die so you can live.
- It means you choose the suffering that comes with obedience over the comfort that comes with disobedience.



- It means you gladly renounce prosperity and applause in this world for prosperity and applause in the world to come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

1. Read Mark 8:31-38 aloud as a group and take some time to let group members share observations about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you all observe from the text.
 - What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen and what was Peter's reaction? (Mk. 8:31-32)
 - What do you notice about Jesus' reaction to Peter? (Mk. 8:33)
 - What are the different things that Jesus teaches the crowd in Mark 8:34-38?
 - How would you explain or summarize this passage in your own words?

What does the passage mean?

1. The disciples' spiritual sight was still blurry. (Mk. 8:31-33)
 - Who were the disciples expecting Jesus to be and what did they want Jesus to do for them?
 - Why did Jesus speak as the Son of Man? What does this say about Him? (see Psalm 2 and Daniel 7)
 - How does Mark 8:31 illustrate the gospel?
 - How was Peter conflicted - Why could he see Jesus as Messiah, but not as One going to the cross?
 - Why did Jesus rebuke Peter?
2. As disciples, we must sharpen our spiritual sight. (Mk. 8:34-35)
 - What are the three essentials of the Christian life found in Mark 8:34 and what do these essentials mean?
 - How is Mark 8:35 a radical, counter-cultural, unexpected statement? What does it mean to 'die so that you can live?' (see Gal. 2:20)
3. When we really follow Jesus, our lives will be noticeably different. (Mk. 8:36-38)
 - How and why might it be easy for us to lose our souls?
 - What does it look like to give your life to and for Jesus? How are disciples called to discomfort?
 - How will Jesus ultimately respond to those who love, trust, and follow Him; and to those who don't?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Who is Jesus to you? What do you expect from Jesus? How are you failing to see Jesus clearly?
2. How are you living the three essentials of the Christian life found in Mark 8:34? How does your life humbly illustrate the three essentials of Christian life to others? How can others see Christ living in you?
3. Where are you living a self-centered life, rather than a Christ-centered or other-centered life? Where are you tempted to let worldly applause become louder than Jesus' heavenly applause for you? Where are you clinging to a 'safe' life, instead of boldly going before others for and with Jesus?

4. How are you giving your life to and for Jesus? Where might your life illustrate shame about Jesus? How can you die so that you can live? How are you losing your life for the gospel? How can you really follow Jesus?

LEADER NOTES

As summer draws near, it's a good opportunity to take a group health check of our Church Groups:

1. How are we doing at caring for one another deeply by responding to needs, faults, and triumphs?
2. How are we doing at growing together as disciples - what is the evidence (fruit) of our growth?
3. How are we doing at making disciples in our local community and around the world?

RESOURCES

- [Global Outreach 2022 Prayer Guide](#)