



The Book of Mark

Session 8: Mark 8:31-10:52

We have a shift in our study of Mark where everything is being made clear. No more confusing parables, no more pressure to rightly interpret Jesus's miracles. For the disciples and for us the reader, Mark is going to lay everything out on the table for us.

The book of Mark will focus on one idea: True disciples of Jesus lay aside everything they possess and all that they are to sacrificially serve like Jesus did.

3 objectives for this study:

1. We want to recognize Jesus's mission for exactly what it is.
2. We want to feel acceptance in light of his call on our lives.
3. We want to listen and follow him in laying down our lives.

Question: What's the most life-changing thing that has happened to you?

Read: Mark 8:31-9:1

Jesus's announcement stunned the disciples, if he is indeed the Christ of God. Peter even took Jesus aside and reprimanded him.

Question: How could the religious leaders reject him? Why would they want to kill him? Did they not know the Old Testament scriptures about the promise of the Messiah?

One minute Peter is confessing his faith in Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:17) and the next minute he is thinking like an unbelieving man and expressing the thoughts of Satan.

Question: How should this be a warning to us that when we argue with God's Word, we open the door to Satan's lies?

These men are struggling internally knowing whatever was to happen to Jesus would happen to them. If there was a cross in his future, they also had one in theirs.

True relationship between the cross and the crown. Satan's philosophy (glory without suffering). God's philosophy (suffering transformed into glory).

Question: Think about these two philosophies. How do they still apply even today?

Jesus laid down 3 conditions for true discipleship.

1. We must surrender ourselves completely to him.
2. We must identify with him in suffering and death.
3. We must follow him obediently, wherever he leads.

Question: Are you willing to lose yourself for his sake and the gospel, in order to find yourself in following Christ?

Read Mark 9:2-13

Moses represented the law and Elijah the prophets, both of which find the fulfillment in Jesus Christ (Luke 24:25-27, Heb. 1:1-2). Moses had died and his body was buried, but Elijah had been raptured up into heaven (2 Kings 2:11). When Jesus returns for the second time, he will rapture those who have died and the living saints (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

Question: How does the thought of Christ's return encourage your faith?

How great would it have been to have had that same mountain top experience that Peter, James, and John had. Mountain experiences in our lives give divine glory.

Question: What has been one of the most special mountain top experiences with Jesus that you have ever experienced?

Read: John 9:14-29

Reread vs 23 and 24. Raw truth of unbelief. We see Jesus saying anything is possible while the father confessed his unbelief.

Question: Have you ever struggled with unbelief in your faith? Something hit you personally like the young boy who was demon-possessed, and his father couldn't fix it or make things better?

The 9 disciples' failure to cast out the demon was due to lack of prayer and fasting.

Question: Have you ever prayed and fasted for a particular situation that was out of your control or you simply needed clarity in a situation?

Read: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus is leading his disciples to Jerusalem and as they go, he again reminds them of his death. On their journey, the disciples are arguing which one would be the greatest. In Jesus's response, he takes a child into his arms and gives them a brief message on greatness. In the Aramaic language, servant and child mean the same thing.

Question: Why is it important for us to have the heart of a child? At any age.

Read: Mark 9:38-50

This solemn message about hell carries a warning to all of us to deal drastically with sin. Whatever is in our lives and makes us stumble must be removed by surgery. What's in the heart is what needs surgery.

Question: What is the cancerous tumor that needs removal in your own life? Are you willing to name it and have others pray for you in its removal?

Read: John 10:1-12

Women were not held in basic limited regard. A man could divorce his wife easily and she would become an outcast.

Question: Why is it of most importance to God and to us to put sufficient regulations on getting a divorce?

Read: Mark 10:13-31

Of all the people who came to Jesus, this is the only man who left worse than when he came, and yet he had so much in his favor. He was simply superficial in his views of spiritual things. Jesus wanted the young man to confess he was a sinner.

Question: Why is that so essential in our beginning journey with Christ, and confessing is important throughout our faith in Christ?

Read: Mark 10:32-45

On the road to Jerusalem we find the disciples still fighting over position with Christ who will sit next to Jesus.

Question: It's in serving that we receive position. What has taken importance in your life? Is it serving or being served?

Read: Mark 10:46-52

They are on their last leg to Jerusalem as they arrive in Jericho. A blind man "Bartimaeus" cries out for help. Jesus asks, "What is it that you want me to do?" The man said, "Heal me. I want to see".

Question: Jesus had his eyes on Jerusalem, yet he stops and has eyes of compassion. How is your focus, your eye site? Is it with Christ's kingdom or yours?

Your assignment: Go out this week and identify someone you can serve in some way. Let your focus be more on how you can surrender yourself in the situation.

Next week: Session 9 – read Mark 11 and 12:1-27

Also, a reminder to sign up for Vital Ministries Devotionals @ vitalministries.org