

Marked

Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Mark

Week 10: Signs of the Kingdom

Hi Gang!

Thanks for leading again this week! Pray for joy in your time together and that the Spirit of God would lead you into understanding.

I. Catch Up (15 mins)

- Play a game, have fun, share some food, or catch up together.

II. Dig In

- Seek Understanding

- Read Mark 8:1-21

- What first stands out to you in the varying encounters Jesus has?
 - Jon listed the similarities and differences between this passage and the 'Feeding of the 5000' (Mk 6:30-44). Why do you think Jesus does this miracle twice?
 - Why do you think the disciples don't pick up on what Jesus is planning to do in feeding the 4000?
 - Why do you think Jesus has such different reactions to the crowds whom he feeds and the Pharisees?
 - Does Jesus' reaction to the Pharisees seem unwarranted?
 - After reading Jeremiah 5.21 and Ezekiel 12.2 and knowing that the Israelites were in danger of not caring for those in need around them, what might Jesus be concerned about as he asks his disciples very similar questions to those in the OT passages?
 - What does Jesus want his disciples to understand so badly (cf. v. 21)?
 - Do you sense Jesus' increasing desire for his disciples to understand, as he gets closer to Jerusalem and his inevitable death? Why might that be?

- Apply

- As you reflect on Jesus' gut reaction of compassion for the crowds, can you think back to a time recently where you responded in a similar way?
 - Can you think of times in your life where God has had to show you his faithfulness multiple times before you've begun to understand? Can you relate to the disciples in any way?
 - Jesus' generous feeding miracle extended to Jew and Gentile alike. Do you feel like God might be asking more from us as individuals with regards to *who* we share our resources with? (relational, financial, etc)

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- What prevents us from welcoming the outsider (individually? as a group?)? What might be some practical steps we could take towards becoming a welcoming small group in the next month?
- Pray
 - We ended both services on Sunday remembering that only the Holy Spirit can give us true understanding of who Jesus is and what his kingdom is all about. Confess the ways we find ourselves aligning with other kingdoms (social, financial, self-fulfillment, etc.) and pray for one another that the Holy Spirit would come and bring illumination and clarity.