

Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Mark

Week 11: 'On the way' to Sight

Hi Leaders!

Well this week 'marked' a significant shift in Jesus' ministry. He is now en route to Jerusalem and he has let his disciples know what that is going to entail. Likewise, we find ourselves in the season of Lent, journeying with Jesus and the disciples towards Good Friday and Easter. I wonder how Jesus may want to prepare us in similar ways to how he prepared his disciples, helping them to see him clearly as the 'Servant King'. Let's pray for our groups this week that we would grow in wonder at the love of God in Christ's sacrifice and that our spiritual eyes would be opened to see him more fully. Thanks for leading!

I. Catch Up (15 mins)

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

II. Dig In

- Seek Understanding (Choose a few of these. You may not be able to do them all due to time)
 - Read Mark 8:22-26
 - Why does Jesus take the man outside of the village to heal him and then command him not to enter the village afterwards?
 - Why does Jesus heal the man with two touches?
 - Verses earlier in Mark 8:18, Jesus has just called the disciples blind. Describe their figurative blindness? (Why does Jesus call them blind?)
 - Read Mark 8:27-30
 - Mark has done his best to *show us* rather than *tell us* who Jesus is to this point in the gospel. What are some of the identities people have ascribed to him so far? Use your memory or look up some of these passages (cf. Mk 1:1, 24; 2:7; 3:11, 21-22; 4:41; 5:7; 6:56)
 - Why do the people think Jesus is a prophet? (cf. Duet 18:15-18; Malachi 4:5)
 - What does it mean for Peter to say Jesus is "the Christ" ("Messiah" in Hebrew)?
 - Read Mark 8:31-33
 - How is Jesus different from the messiah the disciples were hoping for?
 - Why 'must' Jesus suffer and die and rise again?
 - Why does Peter rebuke Jesus for saying this?
 - Why does Jesus respond so strongly to Peter's rebuke?

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- What parallels are there between the blind man being healed in two touches and Peter identifying Jesus as the Christ and then getting rebuked?
- Apply
 - Can you think of a time where you thought you knew someone and then over time you saw more to them that you didn't see initially? (Try to think of positive examples).
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 - One of the piercing questions in this dialogue is when Jesus turns to the disciples and asks them "Who do YOU say that I am?" Take a few minutes to hear from each person what their response would be if Jesus were in the room asking them this question.
 - What's it like for you to follow a God who has laid down his life for you?
 - Is it hard in anyway to follow a God who was crucified? If so, how?
 - Justin showed that Peter may have only partially seen when he identified Jesus as the Messiah, but could not envision a suffering Messiah. What are some of the ways we may have made/received a mold for Jesus that is not true to who he really is?
 - Here are a few examples to explore with your group...
 - "Jesus is Love, but not Lord. He loves me, so he'd never tell me to change or lead me somewhere I don't want to go."
 - "Jesus will save us in the end, but he isn't really active now. He is real, but he doesn't do the things he did in the gospels in these days."
 - "He is Healer, therefore he would never ask me to persevere through suffering."
 - What are some other ones you may struggle with?
- Pray
 - Pray for SIGHT for one another. Pray for each other specifically that Jesus will allow you to see in the ways you recognized may still feel blurry! Pray with love and faith!