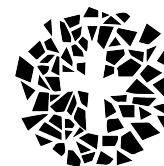


HOW DO YOU SEE?

MARK 8:22-38

Community Group Study Guide
Week of August 25, 2019



MOSAIC BOSTON
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week Pastoral Resident Andy Hoot preached an ordination sermon from Mark 8 where Jesus heals a blind man and teaches His disciples the importance of seeing Him for who he really is. At first, the details of the passage seem strange. Jesus returns sight to a man with no vision, but he does so in two parts. After the first attempt, the man could see with blurry vision, but after the second he could see clearly. It might seem like an odd detail, but Jesus was doing something intentional in order to teach his disciples an important truth.

The backdrop to Mark 8 is the question of Jesus' true identity. "Who do people say that I am?" "Who do you say that I am?" Some thought Jesus was merely a prophet, but Peter answered, "you are the Christ!" At first this seems like a great answer, but context shows us that it was still missing the mark. After hearing Jesus predict that He would go to Jerusalem and be crucified, Peter rebukes Jesus. In Peter's mind the Messiah would not come to suffer, but to conquer his enemies. Peter's vision of Jesus was still as blurry as the blind man before receiving full sight.

The leaven of the Pharisees (8:15) was at work even in the hearts of Jesus' own disciples. Like the Pharisees, they perceived that their biggest problem was the Roman Empire which was keeping them from possessing their land as the Kingdom of Israel. Jesus needed them to understand that their biggest problem was their own sin, which was keeping them from God and the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus had truly come to save them, but not in the way anyone expected. He would not kill their enemies, instead he would die for God's enemies. He did not come to take up a throne, but to take up a cross and lay down his life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of God's people.

It is tempting to view Jesus as a political Messiah who will help us achieve our worldly desires and goals. Many come to Jesus hoping that if they do good for God, then God will do good for them. When we understand who Jesus really is, however, our entire view changes. Instead of coming to God for what he can give us, we come to God for God. In Jesus, we see that God has already given His all for us, and so we owe our all to him. Instead of asking God to bless our plans, we give our lives to his mission by joyfully humbling ourselves, and boldly following the way of Jesus, the way of the cross.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand how our view of Jesus and His mission impacts our understanding of our own identity, calling, and mission.

Heart

To trust Jesus and believe that the way of the cross is the way of true life.

Hands

To live our lives as a reflection of Jesus by following his example of sacrificial love and service to God and others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 8

1. How does the disciples' view of Jesus compare/contrast to the view the Pharisees had of Jesus? How does the healing of the blind man reflect the way the pharisees and disciples understood Jesus' identity and purpose?
2. Jesus warns his disciples to "beware the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod." Based on the context of Mark 8, what does the leaven represent, and why is it so deadly?
3. Looking at verse 31-33, why does Peter's response elicit such a strong reaction out of Jesus?
4. What are ways that the leaven of the Pharisees could be at work in our hearts today? What are some ways we might be tempted to create a false Jesus in our minds?
5. Jesus makes it clear that His mission is to go to the cross (v31), but also that the mission of His disciples is to live lives that reflect the way of the cross (34-38). What comes to mind as you read these verses?
6. Jesus is calling us to absolute selfless and sacrificial obedience. What motive do we have to give this to him, and what hope do we have that it will be worth it?
7. Why do you think Jesus ends with talking about being ashamed of Him? Why might we be tempted to feel ashamed while following Jesus? Where do you find yourself experiencing this the most?
8. How do we find the strength or courage to be bold in situations where we're tempted to feel ashamed of Jesus?
9. Can you relate to the blind man in this passage? Has there been a time in your life where you've felt blind, or where your vision of Jesus has been inaccurate and blurry? What gave you clearer vision?