

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

The Suffering King

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
April 7, 2019



What happens when we build our identity on some picture of worldly success?

How do we find our true identity?

Mark 8:27-30 (NLT) Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets." ²⁹ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus asks: "Who do you say I am?" Your answer to this question will shape your life more than anything else.

Mark 8:31-32 (NLT) Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

"Yes, I'm the Messiah, the King, but I came not to live but to die. I'm not here to take power but to lose it; I'm here not to rule but to serve. And that's how I'm going to defeat evil and put everything right." Tim Keller

Mark 8:33-38 (NLT) Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." ³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

- **Jesus is offering us a whole new way of gaining an identity.**

Big Idea: Surrender to the suffering King to find your true self.

In what ways have you been building your identity on worldly success?

Mark 9:1-8 (NLT) Jesus went on to say, "I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!" ² Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed,³ and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. ⁴ Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus... ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

- **See only Jesus to find your identity.**

"Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with ever fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in." C.S. Lewis



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**The Suffering King
#12 of 21 — April 7, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) Describe some specific ways people often use worldly success as a way to determine their significance? How is this most apparent in your mission context as an Impact Community? What does this tell you about what people are looking for?

4) Read Mark 8:27-30. Discuss the significance of Jesus' question and Peter's answer? How do you answer this question? How does your life bear witness to your answer?

5) Read Mark 8:31-32. What does Jesus indicate in this passage? Why is this so hard for the disciples to receive? How does it help you to know Jesus had to suffer and die?

6) Read Mark 8:33-38. What does Jesus mean by "lose your life to save it?" In what way is Jesus offering us a whole new way to gain an identity? How does this passage challenge you today?

7) Read Mark 9:1-8. Why do you think Jesus took only Peter, James and John up the mountain? How did seeing Jesus transformed help them build their identity on Him alone? How did this impact their respective lives?

8) Reflect on the C.S. Lewis quote. How does this resonate with you. What is holding you back from surrendering everything to your suffering King?

9) Share with a friend or someone in your Impact Community, about the ways you have been building your identity on worldly success? Confess this to God and look to Jesus alone for your identity. Pray for one another.



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