

Mark: Our Suffering Servant

Follow Me To Death ~ Pastor Joshua Young

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Key Scripture: *Mark 8:27-9:1*

As Mark 8 is the watershed moment where Jesus makes these things crystal clear, I want you to have a watershed moment as we explore four things together:

1. The question of WHO is Jesus?
2. The question of WHAT does Jesus do?
3. The question of HOW does Jesus call us to join Him?
4. The question of WHY does Jesus do this?

(WHO, WHAT, HOW, WHY) are the same questions many of us are asking today?

- Who is Jesus to me, today? (Is He angry, is He loving)
- What is Jesus doing? (Life is not clear)
- How can I join Jesus? (What are my next steps in life)
- Why does Jesus do all of this? Because a lot of times life doesn't make sense.

Big Idea of the Message: In the kingdom of God, power is found in sacrifice.

Application Point: We are called to be previews of the coming kingdom of God, willing to sacrifice for God's glory.

Group Question. Think back to the message. What sticks out?

Start talking.

- What assumptions do you have about the way Jesus works? How have those assumptions been challenged in your life?
- What are some concrete examples of “denying yourself” that can help us understand this concept?
- What are some practical ways we can be a preview of the coming kingdom of God in our community?

Start thinking.

- Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ?
- Isn't Peter's blindness our own? I have such difficulty with suffering, and seeing how suffering is producing something beautiful in my life, and I think we all do.
- Are you and I comfortable with a suffering Christ?

Start sharing.

- Can you be comfortable with a Christ who was submitted to the authority of His oppressors in order that we may be saved?
- Are you comfortable with identifying with Christ's suffering, seeing your own pain as a mechanism of God's will and God's grace to you and to others?
- Are you seeking to bring God's Kingdom, or your own?

For Families. Read Mark 8:27-9:1 together.

Share with your children why Jesus had to suffer and die. Help them see that in order to be our substitute, he had to take our sin and our death upon himself. Remind them that the resurrection of Jesus proves he is God and has the power to destroy sin and death forever.

Ask your children about something they had to give up or lose in order to gain something better? (Think about playing a sport or instrument; or saving up to buy something they really wanted.)

The image of cross bearing is not pretty, but it is the teaching of Jesus. Help your children understand that following Jesus always involves a cost. Share with them some of those costs. But, then share about how what we gain from knowing Jesus is so much greater (love, grace, acceptance, forgiveness, eternal life, heaven, etc.)

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