

Life Group Questions - Mark 8: The Person and the Plan

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. *Main Idea of the Passage:* The Gospel is a Person AND a Plan AND THEN a Pathway to follow.
2. *How the main idea is developed:* Jesus concludes his mission of teaching and demonstrating his identity as Messiah and begins his mission as the Suffering Servant King. Jesus uses this threshold to teach that the Gospel is both a specific Person carrying out a specific Plan. He is the Person and the cross is the plan and His disciples must embrace Both.
3. *Melodic Line:* Repent and Believe in the Good News that Jesus is the Suffering Servant King, the Glorious Savior.

Outline

1. The Person (vv. 1-21)
2. The Partition (vv. 22-26)
3. The Plan (vv. 27-9:1)

Gospel Centrality

1. Mark 8:31 - And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Warming Up

1. From the first half of the Gospel of Mark (Ch. 1–8:26) what impacted you the most about Jesus' ministry to the Galilean region?

Letting the Text Shape our Framework

1. The Person (vv. 1-21)
 - A. What is the difference between the permanently hardened hearts of the Pharisees and the partially hardened disciples?
 - B. How do we, like we find the disciples here, get bogged down in the shallows? What are those things for you currently?
2. The Partition (vv. 22-26)
 - A. How has your journey with Jesus been representative of this two-part miracle? In other words how did you understand the revelation of Jesus overtime? Are there things you still don't fully understand about Jesus?
3. The Plan (vv. 27-9:1)
 - A. Who do *you* say that Jesus is?
 - i. How much of the person of Jesus, namely that he *suffered, was rejected, and killed*, play into your answer?
 - ii. How about the rest of the sentence — *and after three days rise again*?
 - B. Why is the pathway of Jesus **worth it**?

- C. Do you believe that glory is waiting for you in “the deep?” What is keeping you from leaving “the shallows?”

Traveling Through the Cross

1. Mark 8:34-35 - “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

Applying This Passage to our Lives

1. The Pathway is uphill, full of peril, and contains long seasons of affliction, but it’s full of glory.
- A. Start with identifying the things keeping you from going into the deep with Jesus.
 - B. Share with your group how the Lord is calling you to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.
 - C. Pray together for these things and that your trust in Jesus will grow so you are able to follow him into the deep where glory is awaiting.