

## **WEEK # 20**

[7/19](#)

Mark 8:31-38, 9:1 Brian Gai

### **Discussion Guide**

**Review Mark 7:31–37.** Why do you think Jesus told the people not to tell anyone about His healing of the deaf man? Why do you think Jesus healed this man in a secluded place? This miracle is recorded only in Mark's gospel. Why might hearing about this Gentile's healing have been particularly valuable for Mark's Roman readers?

Read verses 8: 31-32. In light of the teaching of entire first half of the gospel of Mark, how are these verses completely unexpected, even (apparently) contradictory to it?

In verse 8:31, the word *must* modifies and controls the entire sentence. What does it tell us about Jesus' purpose and what he came to do?

Read verses 8: 32-33. Why is Peter rebuked, and how is Peter a warning for us today? In verse 35, what does the first "save his life" mean (35a)? What does the first "lose his life" mean (35b)? What does the second "lose his life" mean (35a)? What does the second "save his life" mean (35b)?

How do verses 34 and 36 shed light on what verse 35 means?

Read verse 9:1. In what way might some of those present see the kingdom of God come with power before they die?

There is a strange mixture of strength and weakness in Christianity. How does Jesus show this strange mixture in his mission? How do we see this strange mixture in Peter in verses 32-33? How do we see this strange mixture in the life Jesus calls us to in verses 34-37?

**Read Mark 8:22—9:1.** When they arrive in Bethsaida, Jesus heals another blind man (8:22-26). How is this healing related to what happened in the boat?

The blind man needs two touches to bring his physical sight. What two touches did the disciples need to bring the spiritual sight Peter articulates in 8:27-30?

The Jewish people were expecting a Messiah they thought would be God's agent in bringing in the kingdom, in sorting out the mess and muddle Israel was in politically, in

putting the Gentiles in their place. Peter's reaction makes it clear that's the way he thought."

How does Jesus redefine what the Messiah would do instead here in 8:31—9:1 and throughout the first eight chapters of Mark?

Jesus asks us the same question he asked his disciples: "Who do you say I am?" What is your answer to who Jesus is and what he is actually doing in the world?

The disciples must have known that by following Jesus they were taking risks. The death of Jesus' mentor, John the Baptist, will simply have confirmed that. But now Jesus began to teach them something new, implying that once they'd declared that he was the Messiah, they'd need to pick up their own cross (8:34). How can following Jesus be dangerous for us as well?

This passage makes it clear that following Jesus is the only way to go. Following Jesus is, more or less, Mark's definition of what being a Christian means; and Jesus is not leading us on a pleasant afternoon hike, but on a walk into danger and risk.

How have you seen in your life and in others' lives the truth that "if you want to save your life, you'll lose it; but if you lose your life because of me and the Message you'll save it"?

### ***DIGGING DEEPER***

[Empty Words - Larry Osborne- Mark 8:27-33 \(52:08\)](#)

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[How to Become a Christian- Christopher Hilken- Mark 8:34-38 \(52:15\)](#)

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