

The gospel of Mark

15 May 2022
Mark 8:27-38

BASIC QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

Read **Mark 8:27-38**

- **reTell**

Try putting the passage in your own words.

Share your initial impressions – is there anything that stands out or that's curious or unclear?

- **reAct** – How do the different people in the account respond to Jesus?

- **reVeal** – What do these events show us or tell us about Jesus?

- **reaSon** – Why do you think Mark included this story? What would we be missing without it?

- **resPond** – How can we respond to this story? What do you think you need to rethink or do?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- What does Jesus say is going to happen to him?

- Why is this so unexpected? How to the disciples & specifically Peter respond to Jesus?

- Why is Jesus' response to Peter so harsh?

- Jesus is redefining the nature and role of Messiah-ship and discipleship. In what way(s)?

- **v34** says "*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*" What does it mean to deny oneself, take up their cross, follow Jesus?

- Steve Brown, in "**A Scandalous Freedom**" wrote "A lot of Christian... groups... are little more than efforts to fix one another. We become obsessive over fixing one another, almost to the point of mass hysteria. No wonder pagans don't want to be around us."

How do you respond to that?

- How does understanding the Greek word for life (*psyche*) in **v35** expand your understanding of this verse?

REFLECTING ON & LIVING IT OUT THIS WEEK

Looking over this chapter of Mark and the quote from Brennan Manning, **The Furious Longing of God**

Because we approach the gospel with preconceived notions of what it should say rather than what it does say,

the Word no longer falls like rain on the parched ground of our souls.

It no longer sweeps like a wild storm into the corners of our comfortable piety.

It no longer vibrates like sharp lightning in the dark recesses of our non-historic orthodoxy.

The gospel becomes, in the words of Gertrude Stein...

a pattering of pious platitudes spoken by a Jewish carpenter in the distant past.

- How does Jesus model for us different ways of announcing – proclaiming – living out – the reality of the kingdom of God?

- How has this passage expanded your view of what God can do and is doing, to teach, heal and defeat the forces of evil?