



Week #32 of The Gospel of Mark

April 7, 2024

Coming Together

- What were the life circumstances that caused your initial curiosity about Jesus? When did this begin?
- What are some of the common objections people have for not wanting to follow Jesus?

Growing in Our Understanding

1. Read Mark 8:34-38. Who is Jesus' audience here? What is the main lesson He is trying to communicate?
2. What is the focus of Jesus' teachings in the following passages: Mark 8:29, 31; 9:30-31; 10:32-34? What do you think has caused Jesus to change the focus of this teachings from the miraculous healings, provisions, and the casting out of evil that we witnessed in the first 8 chapters?
3. Why did Pastor Chico describe the Gospel of Jesus as being both *inclusive* and *exclusive*?
4. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and 1 John 1:9. What do these verses teach about how a person becomes a follower of Jesus?

Unwrapping and Applying God's Principles

1. What does it mean to “*deny oneself*”? What makes this such a difficult process?
2. What does it mean to “*take up your cross*”?
3. What does it mean to “*to follow Jesus*”?
4. Why do you think Jesus asks these three things from his followers: deny oneself, take up their cross, and follow him?
5. Read Mark 8:35 again. What do we have to do to gain our lives? Why do some call this a paradoxical truth? What are some of the day-to-day implications of living out this truth?

Deepening Our Hearts for God

- What do you think it means to be “*ashamed of Christ*”? Have you ever been in a situation when being a follower of Jesus was something that caused you to be treated differently because of your faith?
- In this passage, there is comparison between the temporal, and sometimes difficult, experiences on earth and the reward of a better life in eternity. How might the promise of a perfect future with Jesus change the way live through the difficult experiences here on earth?

Looking Ahead

Read Mark 9:1-13. Circle, underline, or highlight anything that stands out. How would you have reacted if you were there at transfiguration of Jesus?