

The Gospel of Mark

Leader Guide: Week 16, Mark 8:27-9:1

INTRODUCTION

In the Week 15 passage (Mark 8:1-26), Jesus encountered 4 groups of people with differing worldviews on who and what the Messiah and His kingdom will be. In the passage for Week 16, Jesus focuses primarily on His disciples, asking them to identify who He is and then teaching them about His upcoming death and resurrection. Peter answers correctly saying, “You are the Christ,” but later would not accept Jesus’ difficult teaching about His death and resurrection. Jesus rebukes Peter for “not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” As we study this passage, may we learn to faithfully accept all of Jesus’ teaching.

PRAYER

READ

Ask one of your group members to read Mark 8:27-9:1

SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn’t summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Since it’s the Christmas season, think of childhood toy or game you *really* wanted as a kid. When you finally got that thing, do you remember the moment when it disappointed you, when its newness wore off?
2. Jesus asks His disciples who people think He is. The response varies from John the Baptist to Elijah to a prophet. This response is not unlike people’s response to Jesus today (He’s a great teacher or philosopher, but He’s not the Lord of all). *What have you heard people say in regards to Jesus? In your own words, how would you respond in love to someone making this claim? How does your life reflect Jesus as Christ or as just another “good” teacher?*

(ADVENT) PROPHECY OF JESUS

Public entry into ministry:

Isaiah 61:1-2

Ministry beginning in Galilee:

Isaiah 9:1-2

Entering into Jerusalem:

Zechariah 9:9

A Shepherd for God’s people:

Ezekiel 34:1-31

(ADVENT) PROPHECY FULFILLED

Public entry into ministry:

Luke 4:16-21, 43

Ministry beginning in Galilee:

Matthew 4:12-16, 23

Entering into Jerusalem:

Matthew 21:1-5

A Shepherd for God’s people:

John 10:1-18

FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

3. Jesus rebukes Peter for setting his mind on the "things of man". In what areas of our lives do we tend to set our minds on the things of man? How would our lives change and look different if our minds were completely focused on the "things of God"?

4. What part of your life are you not willing to "lose" for the sake of the gospel? What holds you back?

5. Jesus makes very clear why we must deny ourselves and take up our cross and not be ashamed of following Him (vs. 34-38). He is referring to the cost of following Him. In what areas of your life must you deny yourself? What will that look like practically for you?

NOTES

6. In verse 36, Jesus asks "for what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" While clearly a rhetorical question to his disciples, can you think of times or circumstances, in your life or in general, that putting your hope in "gaining the world" has come up empty?

7. Mark 9:1 was probably confusing to the disciples. Scholars believe that Jesus was referring to the transfiguration, which is described in chapter 9, and/or to Jesus's triumph on the cross, confirmed by His resurrection. What ways can we see the power of God's kingdom in our lives?

ADVENT READING WEEK 4 (Matthew 2:1-12)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose^[b] and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 8:35

6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them

what time the star had appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” **9** After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

PRAY TOGETHER