

Life Group Notes for the week beginning 06 March 2022

Mark 8:27-38

“Revealing Identity”



Warm Up

Share something about yourself that no one else could possibly know!

Mark 8:27-38

We have reached a turning point in Mark's Gospel.

Pretty much everything up to this point has been concerned with who Jesus is, culminating in Peter's confession (v29) and then Jesus launches into what He has

come to do as Messiah (vv 31-32). The rest of the Gospel explores this theme.

But it comes as a complete shock to the disciples!

This is not what a Messiah is supposed to do!

1. How did the people of Israel expect Messiah to behave? What did they imagine Messiah would achieve?
2. How does Jesus re-define what the Messiah would do both here and throughout the first 8 chapters of Mark?
3. What made Peter rebuke Jesus?
4. Why was Jesus' response to Peter so severe?
5. What does Jesus teach about the cost of discipleship (8:34-35)? Do we teach enough about this in church?

Living it Out

1. What does Jesus mean by telling us we must 'lose our lives' for Him? How do we do that?
2. Have you seen in your life and in others' lives the truth that if you want to save your life you will lose it?
3. What kind of suffering might be involved in us taking up our cross? Does it include suffering due to illness or poverty, or is it only suffering for being a Christian?
4. The disciples had clearly got it all wrong about what constituted 'victory' in the Kingdom of God. How might people make the same mistake today?
5. There is a certain kind of evangelism that presents Jesus as the solution to your personal problems, the One who will give you what is missing in your life and make you happy. Considering today's passage, why is this an inadequate description of what it means to follow Christ?

Reflection: Tom Wright: "If we want to play our part in the Kingdom of God, we must follow where Jesus Himself leads along the way of the cross, of self-renunciation and service." ('Matthew for Everyone'). How might this work out in my life this week?