

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 6, 2015

Passage: Mark 8:27-33

Memory Passage: Mark 8:31

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:27-29.** Locate Caesarea Philippi on a map. How far was the journey from Bethsaida to Caesarea Philippi?

(b) Jesus first asks, “Who do people say that I am?” How have the crowds answered this question so far in Mark? How have the Pharisees answered? How has Herod answered? How have the disciples answered?

(c) Why would people think Jesus was John the Baptist? Why Elijah? Why “one of the prophets?” (cf. Deut. 18:18; 2 Kings 2:11; Malachi 4:5, et. al.)

(d) Why does Jesus begin His inquiry of the disciples with this question?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:27-29.** In v. 29 Jesus asks “them” (i.e. the disciples) a question but only Peter answers. Why?

(b) Did you expect Peter’s response based on what we have heard from the disciples so far? Why or why not?

(c) What do you think Peter means by the term “the Christ?”

(d) What do you understand the term “the Christ” to mean? What impact does this term have on your daily walk of faith?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:30-33.** What is the connection between verse 30 & verses 31-33? In other words, how does Jesus’ teaching and Peter’s response, along with Jesus’ rebuke of Peter, explain why He “strictly charged them to tell no one about him?”

(b) Explain the meaning of the words, “And he said this plainly” and explain why they should so vividly catch our eye?

(c) What does Peter’s action in v. 32 tell us about his understanding of Jesus’ role as “the Christ?”

(d) Though you might not be able to imagine yourself actually turning to Jesus, as Peter does, and rebuking Him to His face, in what ways do, or can, your daily actions accomplish the same effect?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:30-33.** Why does Jesus rebuke Peter after “turning and seeing his disciples?”

(b) Explain why Jesus addresses Peter as “Satan.”

(c) How was Peter (a) setting his mind on the things of man, and (b) failing to setting his mind on the things of God?

(d) In what ways are you guilty of (a) setting your mind on the things of man and (b) failing to set your mind on the things of God?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:27-10:52.** In preparation for our study of this important section of Mark, let's fly over these verses and answer some general questions about its content and structure.

(b) Mark uses the Greek word for "way" 7 times in these verses (8:27; 9:33, 34; 10:17, 32, 46, 52), translated in the ESV as "way," "journey," "road," and "roadside." What significance do you see in this word considering (1) Mark's use of the same word twice in 1:2-3, (2) Jesus is now physically turning toward Jerusalem, and (3) what you learn about Jesus' mission and its relationship discipleship in each of these passages?

(c) How many times does Jesus foretell His death, upon what topic does Jesus teach in the verses that immediately follow each foretelling, and what do you learn about this topic?

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The True Messiah