

## STUDY FIVE

Read Mark 8:27-38; Mark 9:30-37; Mark 10:32-45

Note the sharp change in tone as we reach the centre of Mark's narrative. Consider what is happening compared to what has gone before. Discuss in your group.

If these passages are very familiar to you, try to look with fresh eyes and hearts.

Look again at Peter's declaration and expression of faith and then at Jesus' plain teaching concerning His Messiahship.

Q1 As a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew, what does Peter recognise and expect about Jesus, yet what does Peter fail to understand?

Q2 Jesus is clear and plain in His speech here in 8:30-31.

Why might Jesus sternly charge the disciples v 30, just as He had with the demons who also correctly identified Him. (1:24-25; 3:11-12)?

Q3 Peter identifies Jesus as the God's especially Anointed One come to fulfil the OT's divine promises for Salvation, YET he took Jesus aside and rebuked Him.

Jesus recognises Satan's voice. What is Satan tempting Jesus *not* to do? See Matthew 4:8-11, read again 8:31

Q4 If Jesus had not come to earth in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century as the Christ, but came today instead, what would *we* be tempted to ask of Jesus? What would you want Him to fix in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century world and in YOU?

Q5 What is essential to Jesus as Christ, and His Mission?

What is mankind's deepest need?

Q6 Read slowly again 8: 34-38 What does being a disciple of Jesus involve? Is it just for some? How countercultural is Jesus' demand for us living in our 21<sup>st</sup> C world?

We know on *our* side of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the method of His death *-by crucifixion*. However, His disciples did not know this at *their* point in time. For Jesus to talk of His followers needing to carry their cross, how shocking would this have been?

What is Jesus meaning?

Q7 To deny oneself is costly, but there are other costs which are far more expensive. How are *you* challenged to lose your life or lose your soul?

What might it look like in practice for *you* to be ashamed of the Christ?

In 10:32-34, Jesus predicts His sufferings and death in frankly and specifically.

Jesus is solemnly leading His disciples directly towards Jerusalem.

Q8 YET...What mindset again, do we see in James and John's request in 10: 35-45? What are they asking for? What are their motives?

Jesus' response is sharp, stating that participation in His glory comes hand in hand with what?

The ten other disciples were indignant with James and John. Do they have a right to be? See 9: 33-35?

Q9 10:42-45 Jesus calls His followers to a better way. How does it relate to Jesus' teaching in 8:34-38?

IF TIME...Q10 10:43-44. Imagine you were reading this passage with an unbeliever who wanted to turn to Christ. What is Jesus emphasising here about His mission and the essence of every Christian life?

#### PRAYER IN YOUR GROUPS

Pray to be continually challenged by Jesus' demands for true discipleship

Pray that The Lord helps us to be willing and able to Follow Jesus, whatever the cost

*The Sovereign Lord of all, stooped down to be the slave to all and gave His life as a ransom for many.*