

## Week of May 19, 2019 — Mark 8:22-33

### Introduction

The sermon talked about making a *decision* for Christ once we get to know him. Compare this to the similar scenario of a dating couple getting engaged. What are the similarities, the changes in relational dynamics, the risks/rewards; etc.

- Share your own story of your relationship with Christ using this analogy

### Scripture Discussion

Re-read the passage together to refresh your memory: Mark 8:22-33.

- What do you notice / what stands out to you as you read it?

How does the account of the blind man's healing (v. 22-26) relate/compare to the Jesus' interaction with his disciples in v. 27-30?

- What parallels do you see? How is this significant?

Looking at Jesus' two questions to his disciples (v. 27 & 29), how are they similar and how are they different?

- What is the significance of this progressing line of questioning?
- Why does Jesus care about what his disciples believe about him?

The word, "Christ" (or "Messiah"), in v. 29 means "anointed one". Peter confesses that Jesus is God's appointed deliverer and King—the one sent to save and rule God's people.

- This is a good answer! Why would Jesus warn them *not* to reveal this in v. 30?
- (Hint: Look at v. 31-33 and ask yourself, what needed clarification?)

Why is it necessary for Jesus to suffer, be rejected, killed, and rise again? (v. 31)

Why does Peter rebuke Jesus in v. 32? Why is Jesus' response to Peter to seemingly so harsh?

- What *doesn't* Peter know (or take into account) according to v. 33?

## Application Questions

Jesus knew what other people said about him, but he pressed his disciples to get personal with *their* answer. Turn it to yourself now, who do *you* say that Jesus is?

- Are you unclear but still exploring?
- Are you clear but indecisive / trying to make Jesus into who *you* want him to be?
- Are you clear and decidedly following Jesus on *his* terms?

Share a time when you have missed the point and focused more on human concerns than God's concerns (like Peter in v. 33). Why is this so easy to do?

- How does rooting our lives and goals in the "here-and-now" actually set us up for failure?
- In what area of your life do you need a rebuke to fall back in line with Christ's goals and not your own?

Pastor Jonathan mentioned a few false ideas (or "types") of Jesus/Messiah that we often prefer to follow. Which "type" are you most susceptible to following? How does each contain an element of truth but miss the main point?

- "Genie-in-a-Bottle" (give us what we want)
- "Apocalyptic" (saves us, but condemns the world)
- "Private" (saviour who leaves us alone)
- "Social Revolutionary" (helping the poor defeat the rich)
- "Apolitical" (staying out of politics)
- "Political" (restoring our current nations)
- "Middle-Class" (brings comfort and help but keeps his distance)

Consider Voltaire's quote: "In the beginning God created man in His own image, and man has been trying to repay the favour ever since."

- What does it mean?
- Are you being conformed to the image of Christ? Or are you trying to conform him to your image? (See Romans 8:29)

Are you resistant to the idea of a *suffering* Messiah? What are the implications of following a suffering Messiah?

- What would be the result if Jesus *wasn't* a suffering Messiah?

## **Prayer**

- Pray for Jesus to make himself clear to us all (and our varying degrees of understanding)
- Pray for opportunities to share the life of Christ to others who may not see clearly yet
- Confess any false conceptions of Jesus or areas where you've been out of alignment with him.
- If true for you, confess your commitment to follow Jesus no matter what