

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 8:27–9:1

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

You cannot understand the identity of Jesus and his kingdom apart from the cross.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 8:27–9:1

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” **28** And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” **29** And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” **30** And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32** And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33** But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. **36** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? **37** For what can a man give in return for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

9 And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

- Up to this point, the disciples have not understood Jesus. However, in Mark 8:27-30 something changes. They begin to get who He is. What do you think happened?
- Reflect back on what you know about the Gospel of Mark as well as Judaism. What were the disciples and other Jews expecting with the arrival of the Messiah?
- In Mark 8:31-33, Jesus begins to change things on the disciples. What does Jesus tell his disciples they should expect? How does this compare to what they were expecting from the Messiah?
- In Mark 8-10, Jesus predicts his crucifixion and resurrection three times. Compare and contrast how Jesus describes his death and resurrection: Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34. What do you notice?

- Peter (and assuming the other disciples as well) did not like Jesus' addition of suffering to his kingdom. Be honest with yourself. What do you think and feel about suffering being a part of Jesus' kingdom?
- In Mark 8:34 Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross? What does this look like practically in your life?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:22-25. How is Jesus' kingdom that comes with a cross *not* weak and foolish?
- Why is Jesus' kingdom still so attractive and satisfying even with the call to suffer?
- How can we use the rest of the Lenten season to open ourselves up more to the suffering nature of Jesus' kingdom? How can we become more open to the truth and reality that Jesus' kingdom comes with a cross?