

## Who Do You Say I Am? – Mark Scene 19 & 20

Jonathan Cleveland

Mark 8:22-38

November 24, 2019

### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**As we come to the end of part one of this gospel, Jesus finally asks his disciples ‘who do you say I am?’**

Perhaps the question could be framed: What would your life look like if Jesus is who he said he was?

\*Without answering the question now – what feelings or reactions does this type of question create in you?

#### **Read and discuss Mark 8:22-26 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?”

<sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.”

<sup>25</sup> Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don’t even go into the village.”

\*What does this passage show us about God? About people?

\*What is this passage saying to you? Is there something here to share with someone else?

#### **People see Jesus in a fuzzy way at first.**

We put faith in him, but we are seeing him through our self-focused lens.

\*How does the story of the healing of the blind man symbolize our own journey?

\*How has this gradual clarity been true in your life?

#### **Read and discuss Mark 8:27-38 (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” <sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

\*What does this passage show us about God? About people?

\*What is this passage saying to you? Is there something here to share with someone else?

### **Jesus is the Messiah but not the one everyone was expecting**

What people wanted Jesus to do and what he's actually intending to do is different.

\*Jesus asks 'who do people say I am' and 'who do you say I am?' Why do you think he asks these two different but similar questions?

\*How have your biases and expectations of Jesus caused you not to see him clearly?

\*Where have you wanted him to fix things based on your own self-focused desires?

### **All Jesus asks of us who believe in him and want to follow him is everything**

If he is actually the Messiah...then life as we know it is over.

Losing your life means: Embracing your identity as the beloved of God

Orienting your life around loving others well

Leveraging everything you've got for his kingdom

\*How could seeing him for who he really is free us?

\*Where is he calling you to obedience in losing your life right now?

\*What would your life look like if Jesus is who he says he is?