

J O H N

: servant king :
the gospel of mark

✦ week 8: A different kind of success - mark 8:27-38 —

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

29 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

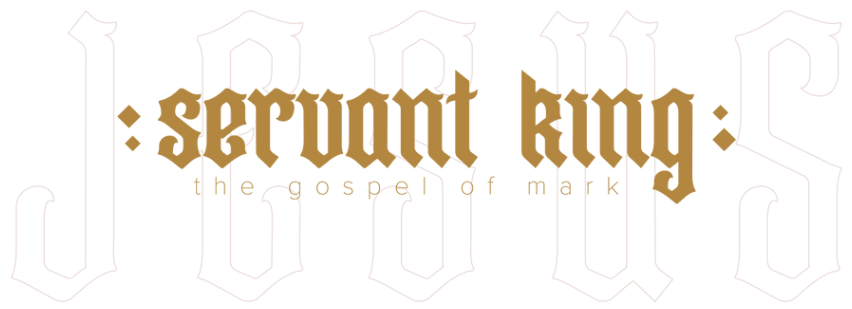
Jesus Predicts His Death

31 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. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 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.”

The Way of the Cross

34 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. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 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.”



✦ personal study sheet

DIRECTIONS: Use the questions below to spend time in Scripture, dig deeper into the weekly sermon message, and to worship and pray. Each day, begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you learn and apply what you read. Then, read **Mark 8:27-38** and answer the day's questions.

◆ DAY 1: FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND THEIR NATURAL, WORLDLY TENDENCIES

KEY QUESTIONS FOR PEOPLE: WHO IS JESUS? WHO ARE YOU?

- In this week's passage, Jesus asks the disciples 'who do they say I am?' and "who do you say I am?' Put yourself in their shoes and answer the questions for our culture and for yourself.

- What is your current definition of success, and how does it align with Jesus' definition of success as portrayed in Mark 8? How do you define your Identity, your place of Belonging, and your Purpose?

- Even though we acknowledge Jesus' life, miracles, death, and resurrection as Peter did, why do we miss the call that being a disciple means following Christ's definition of success? Would the gospel have spread if the disciples and other believers only prayed for salvation, but didn't live according to Christ's definition of success? Consider what keeps you from following Christ.

◆ DAY 2: FOCUS ON GOD, JESUS, HIS PLAN, AND EXAMPLE

JESUS EXPLAINS WHO THE MESSIAH IS AND WHO WE ARE

- Look up Lord, King, and Master. Write a brief description here of that role:

- Write a brief description of anyone's responsibilities under this person's authority:

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- **Read verses 34-35.** What does a disciple of Christ do? What are the tradeoffs? Recall Dan Kim's quotes from Pastor Ted's message. _____

- **Read verses 36-38.** What do these verses say is most important in life? What does it say about your soul's eternal destination after life on this earth? Who does it say Christ is with respect to you? _____

◆ DAY 3: APPLICATION

- **Read Jeremiah 29:11.** What does God promise in His words from this verse? _____

- List reasons why you or someone else may choose to "wait until later" to follow Christ. What consequences may result? _____

- **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** Paul tells the Ephesians that we are saved by God's grace through faith, not by our efforts to earn favor. He emphasizes that God empowers believers to do good works as part of their purpose. Considering Mark 8:34-35 and the Ephesians' mention of "through faith" what does this mean in relation to our connection with God as our Lord, King, Master, and Messiah? _____

- **Verse 34** says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." What are some practical ways you can deny yourself in order to follow Jesus more closely in your daily life? What does taking up your cross look like in your life, and how can you embrace it more fully? _____

- Consider Dan Kim's story and his family's decision to follow God's call to serve as missionaries in West Africa. How does their example challenge you to step out in faith and trust God's plan for your life, even when it may seem difficult or counterintuitive? _____

◆ DAY 4: WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Use **Ephesians 2:1-7** in a time of worship and prayer.