

United Church of Marco Island

Mark Bible Study #9: Tuesday, March 12th at 10AM and 7PM

Mark 8:1 – 9:1 “Who Do You Say I Am?”

Introductions

Opening Prayer

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you suppose the disciples, having witnessed the feeding of the 5,000, have such a hard time believing Jesus can supply the needs of 4,000 here (8:1-13)?
2. What details in Mark's account stress the adequacy of Jesus's ability to meet the people's needs?
3. In verse 12, Jesus says he will give no sign to this generation. What do you think he means in light of the many miraculous signs and healings he has already performed, not to mention his coming death and resurrection?
4. What is the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod (v.15)?
5. What do the disciples fail to understand in verses 14-21 and why?
6. What unusual thing happens while Jesus is curing the blind? (v. 22-26)
7. In response to Jesus's question of who people are saying he is, the disciples tell him John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets (v. 27-30). Why would people think Jesus saw any one of these?
8. Right after Peter acknowledges Jesus to be the Christ, Jesus begins to explain what must happen to him. Why do you suppose Peter reacts so strongly to what Jesus had said?
9. Why does Jesus respond to Peter so harshly?
10. How is Peter like the blind man in verses 22-26?
11. What does Jesus say it means to acknowledge him as the Christ and to follow him?
12. Is your life characterized more by seeking to lose your life or to save it? Explain.

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Mark Bible Study #10: Tuesday, March 19th at 10AM and 7PM

Mark 9: 2-32 “Suffering and Glory”

Introductions

Opening Prayer

Discussion Questions:

1. Put yourself in the shoes of Peter, James, and John. What do you see and hear?
2. Why is it significant that Elijah and Moses are present with Jesus on the mountain?
3. Explain the statement in verse 7: “Listen to him!”
4. Explain verse 13.
5. What does the transfiguration mean for us today?
6. Jesus descends the mountain and returns to his other disciples only to find them in hot debate with the teachers of the law over their failure to exorcise a young boy robbed of speech (v. 14-18). Why do you suppose Jesus is so harsh in verse 19?
7. Explain the Father’s request in verse 22 and what can we learn from it when it comes to our own prayers?
8. At the end of this account, Jesus again tells his disciples about his death and resurrection (v. 30-32). Why do you suppose the disciples failed to understand what he meant?
9. What details in the account of the boy’s healing parallel those in Jesus’s prediction of his coming suffering and victory?
10. How can this passage encourage us amidst pain and suffering?