

KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

Week 8 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | February 22, 2015

Opening Up:

- Are you competitive? What games bring it out in you? How does the competitive nature manifest itself?
- Do you have a memorable win? What about a memorable loss?
- If you were asked to lose something (not someone) in your life, what would be the hardest to lose?

Read (or reference): Mark 8:21-38

Discuss:

1. How is Jesus' call to discipleship "radical"?
2. How have we made the normal Christian life less radical than what the Bible calls for?
3. Why is it inadequate to consider Jesus only a great moral teacher? Why is it inadequate to see Him as merely an example to follow?
4. From this text answer the following questions: Who is Jesus? What has he done? In light of what he has done, who am I? In light of who I am, how should I live?
5. What do the 4 questions above teach us? What would asking them in reverse teach you about what you really believe about God? (This second question may require some real thought. I.E: I live like I must be in control. I believe I can be in control. Jesus doesn't control me. Jesus is not in control.)
6. What kind of King did the Jews of Jesus' day expect the Messiah would be? How do we sometimes expect Jesus to do the same for us?
7. How would you answer a child who asked, "Why does it say Jesus 'must' suffer, die, and rise again?"
8. What do you suppose Peter was thinking when he rebuked Jesus (8:32)?
9. What are man's concerns (8:33)?
10. How does the world entice you to live the self-centered life?
11. How does giving up the right to self-determination counter those temptations?
12. Compare the sayings "The safe life must be put to death" and "The safest place to be is in the middle of God's will." What is the definition of safe in each case? How would you argue that the death of the missionary Jim Elliot was not a great tragedy? Discuss Bonhoeffer's statement: "In fact every command of Jesus is a call to die."
13. Pray.