

Questioning Our Vision & Understanding

Mark 8:22-3:1

1. The Messiah Definition Vs. 22-33

- a) Mark used the two-stage healing as an enacted parable of what is happening with Peter; he has limited sight regarding Jesus being the Messiah but still needs greater clarity. What Jesus had done for this blind man, He will continue doing with His disciples.
- b) Jesus' mission, ministry and teaching define what it is to be the Messiah. This is very important as Jesus' journey to Jerusalem has begun where Jesus will give His life; this must take place: Jesus being "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" (verse 31).

We might rightly identify Jesus as the Messiah, but do we see clearly regarding what this means for our lives? Are we like Peter where he longed for the kingdom, but he wanted the kingdom to come through triumph rather than through the cross? Do we need Jesus to exhort to us "get behind me", as we need to return to Jesus' agenda and reject our own?

Reflection:

Do you ever rebuke God? Perhaps we don't do this verbally, but do we ever set ourselves up as a judge over God, judging His action or inaction?

2. Mission: God's Concern vs. 34-9:1

Jesus is calling His disciples to have minds and hearts shaped by His teaching; having minds set on God's concerns rather than human concerns. The human concern among the disciples was of the prevailing cultural desire for a military to triumph over the Romans. have minds set on God's concerns rather than human concerns. God's concern is the infinitely valuable soul, and calls His disciples to re-evaluate what they truly value.

Jesus is calling us to have minds and hearts shaped by His teaching; having minds set on God's concern rather than human concern. God's concern is the infinitely valuable soul, and calls His disciples to re-evaluate what they truly value.

Questions:

- What is the difference between human concern and God concern?
- What does denying self, taking up your cross and following Jesus look like on a day to day basis?
- When believers confess who Jesus is, they also and unavoidably confess what they must become. What must we become when Jesus is our Lord and Saviour?
- Where might I be the most afraid to be called to pick up my cross or pay the price for discipleship in this life? Where am I tempted to enjoy success in the eyes of men rather than success in the eyes of God?