

Jesus the King- week 6

November 19, 2017

Mark 8:1-38

Warming Up

1. If your group has chosen an OBF missionary to pray for, introduce them to the group by sharing a little of the profile the missions team prepared. If your group does not have a missionary yet, chat with Brian Woodruff or Derek Whalen.
2. Share with the group something God has done in your life over the past month to remind you of his power, or his care and concern for you.

Knowing the Gospel...

3. The early stages of Jesus' ministry took place in Galilee, far away from Jerusalem where not only Jews but many gentiles lived. (In fact, it was in Caesarea Philippi, in the northernmost part of Israel where Peter made his confession that "Jesus was "...the Christ."). While it might have surprised Jews that the Messiah's ministry included gentiles, how does this remain consistent with God's plan from the beginning? Where do we see evidence of this (that the Gospel would be for all nations) throughout the Scriptures? (Gen. 12:1-3, 14:18, Is. 56:6-8, 2, Acts 22:21, Rom. 1:16, Gal. 3:8-9, Pet. 3:9, Rev. 7:9)
4. In Mark 8:11 the Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign to prove he was the Messiah. Why do you think Jesus sighed deeply? What kind of sign were they looking for? Why do you think Jesus would not give them what they were looking for? (see Matt. 12:38-41). Do you think a sign from Jesus would have made a difference? Why? Why not? (Luke 16:27-31)
5. In Mark 8:27-30 Peter confesses that he believes Jesus is the Christ. But in the next section he is rebuking Jesus. Why did he rebuke Jesus? What core truth about Jesus and his mission had the disciples yet to come to grips with?

6. The word “must” in Mark 8:31 is incredibly significant. Why do you think this is so? Why is it significant in light of our culture’s understanding and interpretation of the human condition? How is it significant in the scope of the entire gospel message?

Living the Gospel...

6. Share with your group when and how you came to the conclusion that Jesus is the Christ? What were the circumstances? Who else played a part? Share a bit of the journey that led you to trust in Christ.

7. If Jesus were walking on earth today and you had the opportunity to accompany him while he did miracles, do you think your faith in him would be any different than it is today? Why or Why not? In what circumstances in your life does your faith show itself to be weak and in need of strength (Mark 9:24)? From whom can you ask for prayer in this area of your life?

8. The disciples understanding of Jesus’ true identity seems to come about very slowly. What are some things about the person and work of Jesus that you have been slow to learn? What things do you still not understand? How has your faith in the person of Jesus grown over the time you’ve been a Christian? What led to that growth?

For college students:

- Read Mark 8:34-38. What do you think it means to “lose” your life for the sake of Jesus and the gospel (v.35)? What might that look like as a college student?
- React to this statement: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” –Jim Elliott- missionary to Ecuador.
- What do you think it means to be “ashamed” of Jesus (v.38)? Have you ever been ashamed of Jesus or the gospel? What did that look like? How can a person grow in boldness and confidence in the gospel? (Rom. 1:16).

Telling the Gospel...

10. Why do you think the necessity of Jesus' death and resurrection for salvation is so offensive to some people in our society? What types of cultural beliefs and values in the U.S. make the gospel offensive to some?

11. Spend some time praying for people in your lives who don't yet know Christ.