

Jesus the King- week 8

January 14, 2018

Mark 9:2-29

Warming Up

1. Ask your group to share some goals they have for 2018 for their journey of faith. How do they hope to grow closer to Jesus this year? What do they want to be different than in 2017?
2. Share with the group something that has taken you a long time to learn. Specifically something that you have heard or reviewed over and over again. Something that you didn't learn the first time around. What do you think kept you from learning or understanding it quicker?

Knowing the Gospel...

3. Skim through Mark 8, 9, 10. How many times in these chapters did Jesus mention his pending death and/or resurrection? (ch. 8:31, 9:9,10, 9:30, 10:32-33, 10:45...an additional one is found during the events of Mark 9 that we are given in Luke 9:31). Why do you think he mentions this so often at this point in his ministry? Why do you think he did NOT mention it very often earlier in his ministry?
4. Why do you think Jesus never (as far as we know) sat down and spelled out very specifically when, why, and how his death would take place? When did the disciples finally begin to understand the truth that he came to die, the significance of his death and resurrection, and that it had to happen? Luke 24:25-32, Acts 2:22-41, Luke 24:45-47?
5. Why do you think it is significant that out of all the former saints, Moses and Elijah were the two that were seen with Jesus during the transfiguration? (Ex. 24:1-8, 1 Kings 17:1-7). Hint: what did NT Jews identify each of these men with? What

do you think is the significance of God telling the disciples to listen to his son and not to Moses and Elijah? (Matt. 5:17).

Living the Gospel...

6. In 9:24 the father of the demon-possessed boy confesses that he has *some* faith. But he also confesses that his faith is weak and asks God for help. (“I believe, help my unbelief”). In what areas of your life might this be true of you? In what character attributes, promises, or actions of the Savior might your faith, while present, be weak and could certainly grow more strong? In what ways would you like to see your faith in Christ and the gospel grow this year?

7. In 9:19 Jesus asks (in a frustrated tone) to all present “How long am I to bear with you?” Jesus’ emotions often showed through in the book of Mark (3:5, 8:12). Why does he ask this? Share of a time you have felt that way and asked the same question out of frustration about: Your kids, a friend, a relative. Time to be vulnerable: what thing(s) in your life might prompt Jesus to ask the same question about you today? How does your faith in him need to grow? How can the following verses give you comfort and encouragement when you see your lack of faith? (2 Timothy 2:11-13, Hebrews 13:8)

8. In Mark 9:29 Jesus challenges his disciples privately to a life of more prayer. In what ways and for what things do you want to pray more consistently for in 2018? Individual and family concerns? Church family needs?

Telling the Gospel...

10. Who are some people that you could reach with the gospel this year?

11. Read Luke 24:25-31, Luke 24:45-47, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. What seems to be a key factor in people understanding the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection? What difference can that make in how you think and act on behalf of those in your life that don't follow Christ yet?

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