

Gospel of Mark: The King's Cross

Study 1: Who do you say that I am?

READ Mark 8:27-9:1 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Big idea: Knowing Jesus as Messiah means renouncing personal ambitions and following Jesus wholly, even to the point of death. Paradoxically, to lose one's life for Jesus and for the gospel means to gain true life.

1. Why is it inadequate to consider Jesus only a great moral teacher or merely an example to follow? (vv. 27-28)? See 1:27; 4:41; 6:2; 15:39.
2. A) Consider the kind of King the Jews of Jesus' day expected Messiah to be (Psalm 2). While Jesus commended Peter for his declaration that Jesus was the Messiah (Matt. 16:17), He "strictly charged them to tell no one about him" (vv. 29-30). Why do you think Jesus did this?

B) How do we sometimes expect Jesus to be the Messiah of Psalm 2 and not the Messiah of Isaiah 53?
3. A) Why do you think Jesus had to explain what Messiah meant?

B) How does this challenge you to seek clarification when someone professes to you that they are a follower of Jesus?

4. How would you answer a child who asked, "Why does it say Jesus MUST suffer, die, and rise again?" How would you answer a Muslim?
5. What do you think Peter was thinking when he rebuked Jesus (v. 32)? Considering Matt. 4:8-10, how was Jesus' response (v. 33) justified?
6. A) What must a person do in order to follow Jesus (vv. 34-35)? What does this mean in the context of where Jesus is going (v. 31)?

B) What would this practically look like in your life? Be specific.
7. What is a specific way you can live "unashamed" for Jesus (v. 38)?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the Lord for His obedience and resolute devotion to redeem His people through the sufferings of the cross.

Pray: that you might daily deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Commit: to carrying out your answers to question 7.