



THE JESUS WAY: Developing Kingdom Vision part 1

Pastor Sarah Burttt

June 2, 2024

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Describe a time when God was working, but you didn't realize it at first. What helped you to eventually see God working in that situation?

Scripture: Read [Mark 8:1-21](#).

Observations:

- Break the passage into the 3 main pieces, Mark 8:1-9, 8:10-12, and 8:13-21.
- Have someone read each passage and have someone else summarize what is happening in each.

Interpretations: (See pp. 307-317 in the *NIV Application Commentary* for more information about signs and missing Jesus' Kingdom Vision.)

- "In the Old Testament, a sign was a public event that certified or confirmed a distrusted prophecy or a disputed claim." (*NIV Application Commentary*, p. 308)
 - o Read [2 Kings 20:1-10](#) for an example. Why would King Hezekiah have wanted a sign? What did it confirm for him?
 - o What kind of signs had Jesus already given the Pharisees? What kind of sign might the Pharisees still be looking for?
- Read [Hebrews 3:12-14](#). What causes a hard heart? How do we keep our hearts from hardening?

Application:

- Part of learning how we fit in God's Kingdom Vision is increasing our understanding of who we are. If your group has been meeting for a while, consider doing the Johari Window Exercise: [The Johari Window Exercise](#).
- What is God's Kingdom Vision as you understand it? (see [John 17:1-3](#) and [Matthew 4:18-19](#))
- How do you keep your eyes, ears, and heart open to His Kingdom? (one idea: [Psalm 139:23-24](#))
- What is your part as you now understand it in God's Kingdom Vision?

Prayer: Have everyone sit or stand with their hands open. Pray that the Lord will open your eyes, ears, and hearts to HIS Kingdom Vision. Pray against unbelief creeping into your lives.

Next Steps:

-What's holding me back from looking more like Jesus? Can I see Him at work in my life, this church, and the world around me?

-Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.



THE JESUS WAY: Developing Kingdom Vision part 2

Pastor Sarah Burttt

June 9, 2024

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: How did you come to believe in Jesus? What circumstances did God use? How have you grown in your understanding of who Jesus is?

Scripture: Read [Mark 8:22-30](#)

Observation:

- What strikes you as different about this healing account than others we have read about so far?
- What were the stages in this man's healing? What might be the reason for these stages?

Interpretation:

- How could Kingdom Vision impact our interpretation of this miracle?
- Mark 8:17-21 - Jesus had just talked about the spiritual blindness of the disciples. What could be the connection between His teaching on spiritual blindness and this miracle?
- What does Peter mean when he says that Jesus is the "Christ"? (Try to answer that without including what you now know about Jesus as a Christian.)
- The disciples now SEE that Jesus is the Christ. Does this mean that they are now healed of spiritual blindness? Why or why not?
- For further insight, read the NIV Application Commentary pp 312 to 313 - starting with "Since the man.." and ending with "...suffer and die."

Application:

- In what way is your vision or understanding of Jesus (or His ways) not as clear as you might hope? In other words, how is your understanding of Jesus still a little fuzzy?
- Are there any hopes or personal goals you have been clinging to that could keep you from developing Kingdom vision? What are they?
- Read [1 Corinthians 2:10-16](#) - If a person wanted to grow in seeing life through spiritual eyes, that is, seeing circumstances as God sees them, what advice would you give them?

Pray: Take time to pray for the healing of spiritual blindness in our friendships, families, community, and even church. Pray for specific situations as you think of them.

Next Steps:

-What's holding you back from looking more like Jesus? Which step of developing Kingdom Vision do you need to embrace:

By Faith (1 Peter 1:21)

Through the Revelation of God (2 Peter 1:3-4)

In Community (1 Peter 2:5)

Gradually (2 Peter 1: 2, 5-13)

-Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>



THE JESUS WAY:

Pastor Stephen Hay

June 16, 2024

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Share about a time you obeyed God even though He asked you to do something you found scary or confusing. What did you learn about Him and yourself through that experience?

[Additionally, if anyone attended the Date Night Marriage Event on June 14, ask them to share a highlight.]

Scripture: Read [Mark 8:27-38](#); [Mark 9:1](#)

Observations:

- Who is Jesus talking to in the first half of this passage? What changes in verse 34?
- Compare and contrast Jesus' teaching about the Son of Man (v31) with His instructions to His followers (verses 34-38 and 9:1). What do these have in common? How do they differ?
- As He rebukes Peter, what does Jesus identify as Peter's problem?
- What are Jesus' three directives of true discipleship?

Interpretations:

- In Jesus' day, Jews typically expected the 'Christ' to be a national political leader who would deliver their people from Roman oppression (refer to *NIV Application Commentary*, pg. 323), but Jesus had a different understanding. What can we learn about Jesus' definition of the 'Christ' from this passage?
- Read [Matthew 4:1-10](#). What were Satan's motivations in this passage? What are the similarities between this and Peter's exchange with Jesus in Mark 8? How did Peter's misunderstanding of who Jesus is result in this exchange?
- The cross wasn't just an idea or metaphor in Jesus' time. It was an extremely cruel form of public execution typically reserved for the worst criminals. Those sentenced to crucifixion had no means of saving themselves. Why would it have been shocking or strange for Jesus to reference the cross in His discipleship demands? What was He trying to teach them? (refer to *NIV Application Commentary*, pg. 328)

Application:

Jesus modeled every aspect of discipleship that he required (and requires) of his followers.

- Deny self. Read [Matthew 26:39](#). What aspects of your current daily life or self-perspective prevent you from denying yourself and fully stepping into the call of true discipleship? (consider habits/ relationships/ values/ beliefs/ fears)



- Take up your cross. Read [1 Peter 2:21](#). How do you most often respond to adversity or suffering in your own life? How does Jesus' example encourage you to respond in the future?
- Follow. Read [John 5:19-21](#). Describe how you feel when God prompts you to move in a direction you didn't expect or wouldn't naturally choose. (excited, afraid?) How can remembering that He always goes before you transform your response and your life?

Prayer: Begin your prayer time with worship and praise. Encourage each person to pray out their answer to the question, Who do YOU say I AM? Continue with confessions of things that prevent you from whole-heartedly following Jesus and requests for help in areas of suffering. End with thanksgiving for His good, good promises.

Next Steps:

- How does this picture of Jesus compel me to live differently?
- What is holding me back from looking more like Jesus?
- Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.



THE JESUS WAY: A Glimpse of Glory

Pastor Scott Michel

June 23, 2024

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Have you ever had a glimpse of God's glory? Take a moment and have a few people share how they have seen God's glory, perhaps on "mountain top" experiences. [Additionally, if anyone participated in the ServErie Summer Project on June 20-21, ask them to share a highlight.]

Scripture: Read [Mark 9:2-13](#) [See *The NIV Application Commentary* pp341-352].

Observations:

- Review the who, what, where, and when questions that help us all to observe a passage:
- Where are they? Who is on the mountain with Jesus? What were the things that happened? What did Peter say? What did God say? When in the story of Jesus' ministry did this happen?

Interpretations:

- Read [Exodus 34:1-9; 30-35](#) about Moses' experience on the mountain with God.
- Read [1 Kings 19:9-16](#) about Elijah's experience on the mountain with God.
- Compare and contrast these with each other and the story from Mark.
- Read [Matthew 5:17](#): how is Jesus the greater Moses and Elijah?

Application:

- Read [Romans 12:2](#) and [Colossians 3:1-17](#). What are the ways that seeing Jesus' glory should change us?
- What makes it hard to remember the mountain top experiences in everyday life? How can you remind yourself of how Jesus met you there?

Prayer: Grab a stack of post-its or notecards. Give each person a handful. Have them write down the different ways that they have seen God working in their lives over the past 6 months. Take turns sharing the things you all wrote down. Praise God through prayer for all the ways you have seen Him and ask Him to remind you regularly of them.

Next Steps:

- Discipleship Question: How does this picture of Jesus compel me to live differently?
- Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.



THE JESUS WAY: Faith & Failure

Pastor Mike Crisman

June 30, 2024

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Have you had a “mountaintop” experience as a Jesus follower? What did “reentry” feel like when you stepped back into everyday life?

Scripture: Read [Mark 9:14-29](#) [see *The NIV Application Commentary* p.353-364]

Observations:

- Read each of the 4 scenes separately and talk through your initial observations (verse 14-19, 20-24, 25-27, 28-29)
- Ask members of your group to put themselves in the shoes of different people in the story- what did these people observe and feel (Jesus, the disciples who had been on the mountain, the disciples who couldn't cast out the demon, the father, the crowd)

Interpretations:

- Compare this exorcism story with the stories in [Mark 1:21-28](#) and [Mark 7:24-30](#)
 - o What are the similarities and differences?
 - o How do Mark 9:23 and 9:29 highlight the focus of this story?
- How have the disciples failed? Review the prior failures in Mark. Why is it so important that they move from failure to faith?

Application:

- What does discipleship failure look like in your life?
- What do we learn from the father about faith?
- DL Moody's 3 kinds of faith: Struggling Faith (swimming in deep water); Clinging Faith (hanging to the side of a boat); Resting Faith (safely in the boat and helping others get in)
 - o When have you experienced these seasons of faith?

Prayer: Use [Mark 9:24](#) to lead the group into prayer of confession and commitment.

I believe. Help my unbelief!

Next Steps:

-Big Idea- Jesus invites faith even in our failure. We'll all fail in some way this week. The question is, what will we do next? Invite everyone to share their own “I will...” statement.

-Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.