



Introduction

The Jews (including Jesus' disciples) at this had a scripted agenda as to what the job description of the Messiah would be when he arrived. Among other things, they expected that he would bring his kingdom through waging war - overthrowing the oppressive power of the Roman government. Peter's reaction in Mark 8:32 makes it clear how he, and the other disciples, felt about Jesus' modification to their plans.

Observation/Interpretation

- Read Mark 8:31-9:1. What does Jesus communicate to the disciples about what the Messiah must do? In the context of the first 8 chapters of this book, how does this relate to their expectation of the Messiah?
- Read Mark 8:32. What is Peter's reaction to Jesus' redefinition of the role of the Messiah? Why do you think Peter reacted as he did?

Application

- Jesus asks us the same question that he asked his disciples; Who do you say that Jesus is (Mark 8:27)? What do you see Jesus doing in the world and why is this such an important question?
- With John the Baptist having been recently killed, the disciples must have known that following Jesus was dangerous. Jesus redefines the Messianic role to include not only ; rejection, suffering and death, but he now adds that all who confess him to be the Messiah must be willing to share in his same fate - the cross (Mark 8:34). How can following Jesus be dangerous for us as well?
- Much of American Christianity tends to treat Jesus and his teachings as complementary additions that make our lives better. How does this view contradict Jesus' teaching that states, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"(Mark 8:34)?

Prayer

- Ask God for understanding and a willingness to learn the lessons he is trying to teach you about himself.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.