

An Unexpected Conversation Mark 8:27-38

The Unexpected Question: Who is Jesus? Mark 8:27-30

Mark 8:27 – "Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, 'Who do people say that I am?'"

- The backdrop of Caesarea Philippi (v.27)
- A question for them: "Who do **the others** say that I am?" (v.28)
 - a. John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, one of the prophets (Matthew 16:14; Mark 8:28)
- A question for us: "But **you**, who do **you** say that I am?" (v.30)

The Unexpected Answer: Jesus is the Messiah Who Came to Save. Mark 8:31-34

Mark 8:31 – "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

- Jesus was the unexpected Messiah Who came to save Israel from their sins, not from Rome (v.31)
- Getting the answer right and still being wrong: A story about partial sight (v.33)

"Taking the **blind** man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "**Do you see anything?**" And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around." Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and **he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly...**" **Mark 8:23-25**

The Unexpected Call: Follow Jesus. Mark 8:35-38

Mark 8:34-35 – "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."

- What does it take to build the church? (v.34)

"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon **this rock** I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.'" **Matthew 16:16-18**

- Changing our paradigm of life and death (v.35-38)

Our assumption is that we live, and then we die.

The Kingdom of God says there must be death before there is life.

What part of you needs to die in order to follow Jesus?

What part of you needs to come alive that we might build His church together?

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

There is an exchange in Scripture that offers us life everlasting, but the invitation first is to death. It is counter-intuitive and not of this world. It makes it difficult to trust God that there could even be the remote possibility of life AFTER death, when our primary human experience is DEATH after LIFE. C.S. Lewis offers this thought that encapsulates this Jesus invitation.

“Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes, every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fibre of your being and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in that long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else...” **C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, p. 226-227.**

- **What part of you needs to die in order to follow Jesus?**
- **What part of you needs to come alive?**

That call to Jesus' disciples was to build His church. Matthew records it this way.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (Matthew 16:15-18)

Jesus presented a clear challenge with His words at Caesarea Philippi: He didn't want his followers hiding from evil, He wanted them to storm the gates of hell. This is not about going on the defense, but on the offense. This is about a movement toward.

- **What is God calling you to, in building His church?**
- **What does following Jesus look like for you in this phase of your journey?**

Next Steps:

CONNECT IN A LIFEGROUP - See today's insert to learn about the ongoing small group communities meeting this morning to connect, grow and reach together. You can also learn more about all of Calvary's LifeGroups by:

- Marking "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the seat racks or online at calvarylife.org/card).
- Visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today or our website at calvarylife.org/lifegroups

TEACHING PASTOR CONNECTION - Meet up after the service in the auditorium to connect with today's Teaching Pastor, take part in an interactive discussion on the sermon and dig deeper into God's Word together.

LEARN "THE ART OF NEIGHBORING"- What if Jesus meant that we should love our actual neighbors? Join us Sundays, Sep 2 - Oct 7, at 11:00am in A-205 for a 6-week Workshop of thought-provoking and practical discussions that could transform not only your life but also your community. calvarylife.org/neighboring

JOIN A VOLUNTEER TEAM - There are many ways to give back by serving with Children, Students, Greeters, Safety, Medical and more. Stop in the Lobby today to learn how you can help or visit calvarylife.org/serve