



Week 1

**Jesus
predicted
His own
death 3
times**

PERSONAL STUDY

Read Mark 8:31-38, Mark 9:30-32 and Mark 10:32-34

OPENING REMARKS:

As we start our series on Jesus' way to the cross, according to the Gospel of Mark, keep in mind that the conversation that Jesus is having with his disciples, takes place approximately 6 months before His death on the cross.

Jesus was still attracting thousands of people, everywhere he goes. But not everyone was His follower. Some were critics and some only hoped to see miracles.

Up until now, the disciples knew nothing of the cross and the suffering that awaited Jesus. In his Gospel, Mark refers to 3 times that Jesus predicted His own suffering and death. They now had to know about Jesus's suffering and death to be ready then. Peter's declaration of faith that Jesus is the Messiah, indicated that it was a good time to begin to prepare them.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 8:31-33

What does Jesus begin to teach the disciples about?

What does the “son of Man” refer to?

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Who were the 3 groups of people that will reject Him?

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What did Peter do when Jesus taught them about these things?

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How did Jesus respond to Peter’s rebuke? Why do you think Jesus responded like this?

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Read Mark 8: 34-38

Jesus started explaining the way of the cross to His disciples.

List the 3 things that Jesus mentioned followers of Him must be willing to do. Refer to verse 34.

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What does this mean to us as believers?

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In verse 38 Jesus gives a warning about discipleship. What is this warning? Write it in your own words.

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Read Mark 9:30-32

Why did Jesus not want anyone to know where they were?

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What did Jesus teach them while they passed through Galilee?

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How did the disciples react to Jesus' teaching?

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Read Mark 10:32-34

Jesus and a group of people were on their way to Jerusalem. Where was Jesus at in relation to the group? What was the mental state of the disciples and of the other followers?

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Jesus takes the disciples aside and told them what will happen. List the things that Jesus mentioned.

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Closing remarks:

Mark's description of a resolute Jesus leading the way to Jerusalem in order to fulfill the will of God, packs some emotion. Jesus communicates the meaning of leadership as a position, a tone and a responsibility. To follow Jesus is to lead with Him, alone, courageous and realistic.

As leader of His followers, Jesus prepares them for what is about to happen. Jesus explains what is going to happen, how He is going to suffer.

The Jews were expecting a Messiah, and God's returning presence was expected to result in immense joy, glory and the restoration of the city Jerusalem. However, because of the hostility of Israel's leaders, Jerusalem became the place of Jesus' rejection and death.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

Mark 8:31-38, Mark 9:30-32 and Mark 10:32-34

Discussion questions

Read Mark 8:31-32. What did Jesus teach His disciples about what is going to happen? How did Peter react? Why do you think Peter reacted that way?

Read Mark 8:33. Jesus rebuked Peter and called him Satan. Why do you think that happened?

Have you ever felt that God has rebuked you because you interrupted His plans? Discuss in the group.

Although Peter was sincere and wanted to protect Jesus, Jesus described his actions as Satanic (demonic). What is the clue that Jesus gives to discern demonic behaviour?

Read Mark 9:34. This was the second time that Jesus

predicted His death. How did the disciples react to Jesus' teaching.

Read Mark 10:34. Jesus describes to his disciples what will happen when they get to Jerusalem. List the things that Jesus mentioned.

Why do you think Jesus listed everything so clearly? What would have been your reaction if you were a disciple? Would it have prepared you or scared you for what lies ahead?

Jesus predicted and described his suffering and death 3 times to prepare the disciples. How do you feel when you read this, knowing what happened afterwards? Discuss how this impacts your faith and your way of life?

Close in prayer