

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



But What About You?

Mark 8:27-91

Main Idea

Understanding the person and work of Jesus leads to an appropriate response to the call of Jesus.

Overview

Who is Jesus? (vv. 27-30)

- Jesus asks his disciples who does the average person think he is – most think he is just
- Jesus is not satisfied with this answer, so he turns to his disciples and personalizes the question
 - “But who do you say that I am?”
 - Peter, speaking for the rest of the disciples, answers correctly, “You are the Christ.”
 - On this confession, the entire book of Mark swings
 - 1st 8 chapters emphasized the power & authority of Jesus; 2nd 8 chapters emphasize his sacrifice and submission
- Everyone who reads the book of Mark is confronted with the same question, “But what about you, who do you say that I am?”

What did Jesus Come to Do? (vv. 31-33)

- After Peter’s confession Jesus tells them not to say anything to anyone about him...why?
 - Because they knew Jesus was the expected Messiah, they did not know he would work in the most unexpected way
 - Jesus began to teach them exactly how he would go about saving his people
- Jesus uses the term “Son of Man” to blend the all-authoritative Messiah of Daniel 7 with the suffering servant of Isaiah 53
- Jesus “must” suffer, be rejected, be killed, and rise again
 - The cross is not optional, but mandatory
 - The death of Jesus is the blazing, white-hot center of redemption
- The disciples preconceived notions about how the Messiah would work prevented them from seeing clearly (cf. the blind man from Bethsaida; the disciples saw, but they only saw trees)
 - The disciples were looking for an earthly king, and therein positions of power, status, and influence (cf. 9:34; 10:35-37)
 - Because they aligned themselves with the values of a fallen world, Jesus they have aligned themselves with Satan
- They are trying to lead Jesus, but instead Jesus rebukes them and says “Get behind me!”
- Like the disciples we often project our feelings, our culture, our aspirations on to God and rebuke him when he does not fulfill our desires
- What we think about the atonement is of utmost importance

- If we have no room for the exclusive sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus in our theology, then we are in danger of aligning ourselves with Satan's line of thinking not God's.

How Will You Respond to the Call of Jesus? (vv. 34-9:1)

- Jesus issues a call to everyone – all peoples, tribes, tongues, nations, races, etc. (v. 34)
- His call is three-fold:
 - Deny Oneself – that is turn from your own selfish desires and turn to Christ
 - Take Up Your Cross – follow Jesus knowing suffering, and maybe even death awaits you
 - Follow Jesus – not a set of rules, but a relationship
- Two reasons why we should be willing to lay our life down for the gospel
 - Because you can't help yourself (vv. 35-37)
 - Because judgment is coming (v. 38)
- Jesus promises the suffering experienced by following him will not last forever (9:1)

Questions

1. Does identity matter in our culture (i.e. think about resumes, branding, social media, etc.)? Why are we so concerned with identity?
2. What are some common views of Jesus in our culture? How are those different than the one we see here in vv. 27-30?
3. Why is it important that we each personally answer the question in verse 29, "But what about you, who do you say that I am?" How can we go about doing this with intellectual honesty?
4. Jesus uses the word "must" in verse 31 – what is the significance of this? How does this impact our view of the cross?
5. Jesus rebukes Peter, and by way of that the rest of the disciples, for projecting their ideas on to the way he would work? How do we do this in our own lives (i.e. rationalizing 'hard' Scriptures, rebuking God when things go awry, etc.)
6. Jesus issues a three-fold call to all those who would follow him...
 - a. What does it mean to "deny oneself"? What the difference between denying oneself and denying something?
 - b. What does it mean to "take up our cross"?
 - c. What's the significance of Jesus using the language of "follow me"?
7. What are the two reasons Jesus gives for why we should accept his call? How are both of these at odds with what our culture thinks?
8. What hope can we draw from Jesus' promise in 9:1?