

Setting the scene:

The Only Question That Counts:
Mark 8:27-30

- Do you know who I am?

The Right Answer, Wrong Assumptions:
Mark 8:31-33 & 4:5-8, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-14, James 4:13-17

So, what does “taking up our cross” mean?
Mark 8:34-38

- It’s simply a picture of self-denial.
- It’s a daily decision, not a one-time prayer.
- It’s trusting His way and His Leadership.

NEXT STEPS

This week, Jeff focused on the essentials of who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. If you were to ask the average person who Jesus is, what do you think they would say?

Using the list below, how would you describe your connection with Jesus and his role in your life this past year? (circle all that apply)

- Helper
- Provider
- Distant
- Confusing
- New Friend
- Leader
- Unavailable
- Neglected
- Deepened Friendship
- New Understanding
- Other

Has your understanding of who Jesus is changed over time?
If so, how?

Digging Deeper Mark 8

Throughout history, people have questioned who Jesus is and the role he plays in the lives of those who follow Him. Looking at how Jesus described himself can help us know Him more personally and build our confidence in helping others understand who He is. Who does Jesus say He is in the following verses?

Matthew 11:29 Luke 22:27 John 6:35

John 8:12 John 10:11 John 14:6 John 15:5

Which of these verses catch your attention the most and why?

Understanding that Jesus is God (i.e. his Deity) and not just “another man” is foundational to our faith. The Apostle Paul came to the conclusion that Jesus is who he claimed to be, and was killed because he believed it to be true. Paul writes a clear description of Jesus to counteract false teachings. As you read Colossians 1:15-20, what key points do you see Paul making?

What do you find most encouraging or helpful in this passage?

Submission is a key element of understanding and putting “self-denial” into action. It’s one of those terms that is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. How do the following verses help us better understand what submission is and isn’t?

Matthew 26:39, 42 / Ephesians 5:21/ Philippians 2:1-4

We often know the right answer about who Jesus is but have wrong assumptions about what He expects from us and what He will do in our lives. Read the stories of the rich young ruler and Peter, identify the wrong assumptions they made and how Jesus responded to them.

Matthew 19:16-30 / John 21:15-23

Can you think of any examples in your own life of having the “right answer, but wrong assumption” about what Jesus expects or what He will do?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week’s teaching and study, what’s most important for you to remember and why?

If you have answered the question of who Jesus is for your life, consider celebrating this decision by being baptized on February 26th.

Baptism is an important step in your journey as a follower of Christ; it’s an outward symbol of the work God has already done in your life.

Baptism symbolizes your new life in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that when we receive God’s gift of salvation, we have new life in Christ, all old things have been washed away, all things are new! Romans 6:3-10 and Colossians 2:12, show us how baptism identifies us with the death and resurrection of Christ. When a person goes under the water, it illustrates death to their old life, and the death of Christ. As they come up from the water, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is represented, which also symbolized new life in Christ.

Prayer Requests: