

**GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING**  
**A Study of the Gospel According to Mark**  
**Mark 8:22–9:1**

*Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011*

*“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things...” Mark 8:31a*

**Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.**

Read through this week’s passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

This week’s passage takes place in Bethsaida (v.22) and Caesarea Philippi (v. 27). You may wish to locate these places on your map.

**Read Mark 8:22–26.**

1. List some of the similarities between the healing of the blind man in this passage and the healing of the deaf man in Mark 7:32–36.<sup>1</sup>

Action	Deaf Man	Blind Man
Who brings the men to Jesus?		
How do they want Jesus to heal them?		
Where does Jesus take them?		
What does Jesus do to heal them?		
What does he command them afterwards?		

2. So far in Mark we have seen immediate healing by Jesus, but not here. The blind man, who only sees men who look like trees at first, is similar to the disciples who do not fully understand Jesus and his mission. (Consider Mark 8:17–21.) What is one way you see Jesus more clearly now because of your study of Mark’s gospel?

**Read Mark 8:27–30.**

3. The disciples’ answer to Jesus’ question “Who do people say I am?” echoes Mark 6:14–16.
  - a. Identify what role these people had and their purpose in being sent to Israel.

John the Baptist (Mark 1:2–4, 7–8)

Elijah (Malachi 3:1, 4:5)


Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18)

b. What does Jesus really want to know? (v. 29a)

c. Who does Peter say Jesus is? (v. 29b)

4. The disciples have witnessed many miracles, and have even received special instruction (e.g., 4:11, 34), but until now even they have not truly understood who Jesus is. How is Peter able to come up with the right answer now? (Matthew 16:17)

**Read Mark 8:31–9:1.**

5. What expectations did many Israelites have for the Christ, that is, the prophesied Messiah or “Anointed One”? (Jeremiah 23:5–6; 30:8–9; Micah 5:2–5a;  John 6:15)

6. Jesus teaches his disciples about his upcoming death in verse 31.

a. How does he refer to himself?

b. Who will reject him?

c. What will happen?

**Servant or Deliverer?**


How is it, then, that the final, saving reign of God can be said to [be] ushered in through a suffering servant (Isa 52–53) and a triumphant heavenly deliverer (Dan 7)? Which is it? The answer is that it is both: victory will come about through the suffering of God’s king. This was difficult for many Jews to accept, because they simply expected a triumphant king, without understanding how he would triumph (see John 6:15, for example). This is, however, precisely how Jesus understands His own kingly calling: He is the heavenly son of man who will come on the clouds to judge the world, but only after He has died on the cross for the sins of His people.<sup>2</sup>

7. Jesus’ mission was vastly different from what anyone expected. How does this help us understand his need for secrecy (7:36; 8:26, 30)?

8. Jesus speaks plainly (v. 32) about his suffering, and indeed Peter understands and rebukes Jesus. Why is Jesus’ response to Peter’s rebuke so vehement? (v. 33)


9. List the requirements that Jesus gives for being his disciple and describe in your own words what they mean. (v. 34)

Requirement	Meaning

10. Jesus' listeners know that if you're carrying a cross (v. 34), then you're marching to your death. This sounds difficult and scary, but what comfort do we have? (Romans 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11;  Revelation 7:9-17)
11. What does losing one's life for Jesus and for the gospel mean to you? (v. 35)
12. It's easy to imagine how someone going after great fame and fortune might be trying to "gain the whole world" (v. 36). However, Jesus' words of caution are meant for everyone. Meditate on this and ask Jesus to show you if there is anything you are pursuing that is taking you away from following him.
13. What is the consequence of being ashamed of Jesus and his words "in this adulterous and sinful generation" (v. 38)? (v. 38)
14. Think of a time when you found yourself ashamed of Jesus or embarrassed because of him. What was in your heart that caused you to feel this way? Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you to repentance, remind you of God's great love, and give you a desire to follow Jesus even when it's difficult.

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This lesson on Mark's Gospel is adapted from "Life of a Servant" by New Life Glenside Women's Bible Study, 2002-2003.

\* indicates the passage is for further study.

<sup>1</sup> The chart in question 1 is adapted from Walter W. Wessel and Mark L. Strauss, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Revised Edition*, ed. Tremper Longman III & David E. Garland (Zondervan, 2010), p 821.

<sup>2</sup> Ben C. Dunsen, (2015, June 13). *The Kingdom of God in the Old Testament: The Prophetic Hope*. Ligonier Ministries, 2022. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/kingdom-god-old-testament-prophetic-hope>