

Mark 8:22-33

‘Who do you say that I am?’

This term we will be preaching and studying Mark 8-14. The chapters describe ‘the way of the Lord’ to His death and resurrection – a path that those who follow Him are called to walk as well. In Mark 8 Jesus’ disciples begin to understand who He is and why He came...

Read **Mk. 8:22-26**. The Lord’s healing of the blind man is unusual – a ‘healing in stages’. Mark includes this event here in his Gospel presumably because it illustrates the ‘healing in stages’ of the disciples’ *spiritual* eyesight – their gradual understanding of Jesus’ identity and mission.

1. Was your coming to Christ sudden or gradual? (Perhaps one or two people could share briefly with the group). Has your growth as a Christian been sudden or gradual? (Can you think of examples?)
2. What encouragement does this event give us as we pray for unconverted family or friends?
3. In **verse 27-33** Jesus asks His followers who *the crowds* think He is and then who *they* think He is. The crowds’ answers are very complimentary, aren’t they?! What does Peter get right and what does he get wrong?
4. Jesus tells them that the Son of Man (the end-times ruler with all authority, described in **Dan. 7:13-14**) **MUST** suffer, be rejected, die and rise again. How important is the Cross and Resurrection to understanding who Christ is?
5. Many times in Mark’s Gospel Jesus tells people to keep His identity secret (e.g. Mk. 1:34, 42-44; 3:11-12, etc). Why did Jesus command the man (verse 26) and the disciples (verse 30) not to tell people about Him yet? (If you have time, look at where Jesus’ identity is revealed most clearly in Mark’s Gospel – Mk. 15:39).
6. As followers of Christ we all have blind spots. We need to have our misunderstandings corrected, our faith strengthened, our behaviour brought more into line with Christ’s loving will for us. What can you do within your small group to enable this to happen more?