

LifeGroup Questions from Oct 25-20 "Am I a Disciple of Jesus?"

Opening Crowd-breaker Question: What was your nickname growing up?

Read **Mark 8:27-38**. In this passage, the Holy Spirit through Mark reveals three major issues that Jesus addresses for those who want to be His disciples.

1. I Confess Jesus as "The Christ" with Full Conviction (vs. 27–33)

NOTE: Matthew's account includes "the Son of the Living God" (16:16)

Q: What does "the Christ" mean? Is it a personal name of Jesus, or is it a title of his?

Imagine someone coming into our community claiming to be God's Son, the Messiah. Q: How might you react and why? Is it *harder, easier* or *similar* for us today to believe this with conviction as it was for those in Jesus' day? (give reasons for your answer)

Q: Do you have a settled conviction about Jesus, confessing Him as "the Christ"? What has led you to this conviction? Do you have any lingering doubts?

Jesus predicts four things that will happen to him — what are they? (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Q: Why did Peter rebuke Jesus for saying this? What did he envision about "the Christ"? Q: What are you tempted to re-shape about Jesus/His will or to ignore in His teaching?

It seems like the tone of the conversation turns after Peter's confession and rebuke. Q: Why did Jesus react so strongly when Peter rebuked Him? Q: In what situations might Satan try to sway us from fulfilling our call to be disciples?

In a wedding, confessing my vows means not only committing myself to an exclusively intimate relationship with my spouse, but also to a joyful forsaking of such with all others. How is my choice to confess Jesus as the Christ similar?

(I confess Him as the Christ with full conviction, and secondly...)

2. I Follow Jesus as "Lord" in Total Surrender (vs 34)

Q: Do you resist being told what to do? why? does that sneak into your heart with God? Jesus describes three aspects of this surrender for those who want to be His disciple. To "come after Jesus", I surrender to Jesus' functional leadership when I choose to...

a) deny myself -

b) take up my cross —

c) follow Him —

What do these mean, and what are the practical implications in our lives? How has the choice to be a disciple of Jesus affected various aspects of your life and relationships?

3. I Serve Jesus & the Gospel with Personal Sacrifice (vs 35)

Q: What personal sacrifices do I make for Jesus? for the Gospel?

Q: What do I stand to gain by sacrificially serving Jesus and the Gospel?

Q: What do I stand to lose by **not** sacrificially serving Jesus and the Gospel?

Q: Does Jesus give the option of sacrificial service for Him *without doing so for the Gospel?* Why do we sometimes treat personal sacrifice for the Gospel as an option?

CONCLUSION

"Being a disciple of Jesus isn't something we live up to; it is **someone we live into**" (Edmund Chan). Having made the commitment, it is about who we are becoming.

On Sunday, Gerry gave the following fulsome **definition of a disciple of Jesus**: "Disciples of Jesus believe He is the Christ, worship Him as the Son of God, and surrender all they are and have to His functional leadership as they intentionally follow, learn from, become like, love and serve Him, multiplying the same in others."

As you reflect on this, is there one aspect the Holy Spirit impresses upon you to grow into more intentionally? What could you do to inculcate this into who you're becoming?

PRAY for one another that we sink our roots deep into these aspects of Jesus call on us