

WHO IS 'THE MAN?'

In so many places, people want to know who is in charge? In business, military, church, people will often want to know who can make decisions or take action. What has been your experience of someone looking for the leader? What did it feel like?

WHO IS THIS MAN?

At this point in the story, what would the following groups think about Jesus? Specifically, what would they think about who He is?

- A. An average Jewish person in the crowds?
- B. The religious leaders, Pharisees, the scribes?
- C. The twelve disciples?
- D. An average gentile in the crowds?

LET'S LEARN ABOUT JESUS

In this week's passage, Jesus' identity and authority begins to come into focus. Read Mark 8:27-9:29 and discuss the following questions.

How do you understand the opinions of the "people regarding Jesus' identity?" Why would they have come to those opinions about Jesus?

Immediately following Peter's correct conclusion, Jesus revealed the future rejection and death of Himself and then what would be required of His disciples and then revealed that He would be coming in glory with angels. Why this timing? What might have been His (or the author's) primary intent of this combination?

In 9:1, Jesus made a stunning prediction. How was this fulfilled and how was His identity again revealed? (vs. 2-13)

In the final story (vs.14-27), how do we learn even more about Jesus' identity and authority? What was Jesus calling out in people? How was the father's response significant in the story?

DICUSS WHAT THIS MEANS TO US

What opinions of Jesus and His identity can be heard on the streets? To whom is He compared? Is He significant?

When did Jesus' identity become clear to you? How did it happen?

It is quite obvious that the disciples were Jesus' primary audience in this passage. What did He want them to understand? How might we help other people to learn the same things?

Jesus' and the father's response (vs. 23-24) in the final story are significant to the whole section. What might we learn from this as disciples who are helping other people to learn to follow Jesus?