

SERIES TITLE: Servant King

PART EIGHT: CONFESSING

TEXT: MARK 7:24-8:30

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move. Using the word “immediately” over 40 times, he shows Jesus ministering. Obedient to the Father’s will, Jesus preaches the good news, heals the sick, teaches his followers, and performs miracles. All the while, he heads toward his sacrificial death on the cross. Mark 10:45 sums up his mission: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark’s gospel reveals Jesus to be the perfect Servant and the perfect Sacrifice. Those who receive him as the good news are empowered to serve in his name.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

The scenes in this passage give the disciples multiple opportunities to understand Jesus and His mission more clearly. The passage culminates with Peter’s confession, a turning point in Mark’s narrative.

FOCUS QUESTION

Can you share an example of something you did not understand or misunderstood for a long time, and then suddenly you got it?

EXAMINATION

7:24-30 What do you think of the response to this desperate woman? Doesn’t it sound un-Jesus-like?

7:31-37 Why do you think Jesus sighs?

Why might Jesus have taken this man away from the crowd to heal him?

8:1-10 How do we know this is not simply a retelling of the feeding of the 5,000?

8:11-21 For what reasons does Jesus sigh deeply again?

What is it that the disciples didn’t understand?

8:22-26 Do you see any reason why the blind man was not completely healed the first time?

8:27-30 How important is this declaration of who Jesus is, and why?

EXPLORATION

- Isaiah 35
- Luke 24:13-35
- John 9:24-41
- John 11:17-27
- Romans 10:9-13

APPLICATION

- Which of these scenes speaks to you the most about who Jesus is and why?
- Can you think of a time you faced a need similar to one you had before and still struggled to trust God to provide?
- Of the people you know who don't follow Jesus, what do they think of him? What are the common misconceptions they have of him?
- What is that you are lacking right now and you need to trust that "Jesus is enough"?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What are key truths that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?